

Indian Affairs

Indian Reserve Commission, 1879-1880

Letterbook (Indexed)

(RG 10, Volume 1274)

See Journal Oct 12. 1879 - for New Bedford  
letter re the Akela Kap a muk meeting

Returned Official Letters dated 4. 8. 1880  
5 April 1880



Allard, N. To communicate with Cabanis about  
white men's intrusions on his lands.

Bank Br. Columbia.

121  
Cheque for 1500<sup>00</sup> sent  
dated 2 Oct 1879

140  
2000<sup>00</sup> to Commissioner  
27 Dec

Barnes, C. will not see him this year '77.

Brown, W. Sketch of land defining his lands in  
his neighbourhood.



Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works.

19.  
Greenhow's aut.  
2d copy of his  
letter 30 Aug<sup>r</sup>

53.  
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Indians are  
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in Land Off.

219.  
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## Minutes of Decisions

Upper Nicola Indians 247 to 250  
 Lower Nicola Indians 257 to 259. 256 to 259.  
 Lytton Indians 255  
 Mcminn Indians 266 to 266.  
 Cooke Ferry Indians 266.

## Water Privileges

Upper Nicola Indians 268.  
 Lower Nicola Indians 269. 271. 272.  
 Lytton Indians 270.  
 Mcminn Indians 273. 274.  
 Cooke Ferry Indians 275.

Mem: Referring to rights of Indians to fish  
 in certain waters &c. 275/276.

Michel. Balance wages sent to 19 August 100.  
 Choque sent 120. 2 Dec 79.  
 Mc Intyre In: Have paid Michel 100. (Mc Intyre returned  
 Have sent Michel 120.  
 Mc Millan D. On Highway chs Reo. 4<sup>th</sup> Copy Letter Sup. Gov.  
 Mc Cuthern J. On Chilkoot Road Election

Mem: What was said to the No. 100. Dec  
 1<sup>st</sup> Given to Salmon River Chief  
 2<sup>nd</sup> D. D. 134, correction of 1<sup>st</sup>,  
 On the principle applied by the  
 Com<sup>rs</sup> on assigning Indian Land 134  
 Yale District  
 139

Isak, Kaye Expressman for Com<sup>rs</sup> explains state  
 To Mem: 30 Jan 1880 being a statement of expenses



Notes on Accounts, July, and <sup>122.</sup> on Sept. & Nov. quarter.

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# Indian Superintendent Victoria.

Receipt copy. \$1500<sup>00</sup> from Ottawa 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1879.

246 Shuawmish has furnished with asked for by sketch of Revere	326 men on road check men Council to pass the Revere near Miller's land
246 Copy letter to Hon. Mr. to sent on Stave, R. Re	330 will attend to request reflects also in detail
295 Munthys case at Hope	331 the Timber land necessary for the Indians
301-302 J. Greenlow. Swan Lake fishing	332 minutes of Dec and Surveys instructions sent
303 Certificate of Improvement given to Chem man at Grafton	334 will require until 15 July to complete work
307-311 Mr. Skannoni letter - Stave R.	335 Sundry documents sent in - from Decision re
314 Allison's Case Okanagan	336 Seems to have plenty of work at Chem beg on inst. will attend to his letter next week
318 Reply to request for Lower House minutes to be sent in	
326 Enclosing copy letter to Mr. Baker on sketches of not to send him which he denied receiving	

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For Telegrams see, T.  
 Superintendent General of Indian Affairs

1. Coast work now being dealt with	88. McKee case again	178. On Mr. Lemhans letter wherein he states the Census is not correct
8. Connection of the Ind. Dept. with the War on Coast	Copy Ch. Chikilwa's letter sent	
24. Grand Jury Report, Cassiar	92. Intrusions on Pastoral Lands	182. Report on Dr. Powell's Report on Coast Tribes
22. Mr. Suttons letter on Cowichan Res.	96. Copy sent correspondance re Dr. Powell on "payments made to the Surveys"	193. Stating the opinion of Mr. Chapin & Messrs Cornwall on the quantity of land bunched necessary for each head of stock
27. On letter stating Surgeon's instructions sound & unobjectionable	97. Stationery	
30. Census of Indians	100. Summary of seasons work 1879 to Dec. 31st 1879	
37. Case of T. F. Greenhouse	104. Discontent of Indians at Williams Lake	
41. Surveyor required to plot work of Eln & Cap. Bennett	108. Things in general to Dec. 31st 1879	
42. Would also require if Surveyor on account of Com. on the Coast	117-121. July accounts and vouchers sent in duplicate, also statement showing amount due Com.	
42. Procs. Gov. should convey lands for Indian Reserves	31 December 1879	
42. N.P. asked to attend to this	126-132. Letter and Report on Capt. Drake's Petition	
44. Report of Progress Cape Mudge	152. In the matter of A. Mc Hindley	
49. Messrs. Clipping sent - Mr. Girdle letter	Letter to Williams Lake Chief	
50. Indian Res. within railway limits	161. Mem. on the question whether work should be commenced at Williams Lake this season 1880.	
54. The Pallatich system - Makah and his 20000 Altko	178 to 179. Mr. Van K's question whether the Com. has been doing work over again since George's death enclosures.	
64. Alleged conf. of Ind. tribes on Mainland		
71. Another report of Progress - Shuswap, Day and Copy letter to N.P. sent on Indian administration		

Receipt, copy, for \$1500<sup>119</sup> from Ottawa 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1877.

Roberts Rod R.S. the Comm. from Kuper La. 192. On ditto showing 300000

Rece. J. On Chilwack Road Swanton 207

Stewart Don, Requesting him to mark on sketch (sent), the lands he wishes to have, 277

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Telegram to L. VanKoughnet requesting money } 50  
none sent since July  
L. VanKoughnet will give }  
attention to various letters } 140.  
on arriving at N. West }

L. VanKoughnet have arrived at }  
Hawaii. various letters will be } 140  
receive attention }

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Wake B. A. <sup>133</sup> Answering his letter, undated,  
in which he states he sends copy  
of letter to Sup. Gen on Indians  
Reserved on Halday Island.

Warren J. O. Schooler Thornton <sup>150</sup> no longer required 2/1/88

Water Privileges. Indians see No.

Chief William Okanagan. <sup>323</sup> Stating That Mr. McKim  
will survey their Reserve this summer



British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission  
on board Schooner "Thetis"  
Gulf of Georgia.

4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1879

(Coast work now being dealt  
with)

Sir/

When writing to you on the above subject  
on the 29<sup>th</sup> Augt. I had not the Commission Records  
to refer to, and therefore wrote in general terms.

Having now these before me I beg respectfully to  
enclose for your information copies and extracts  
from the following letters from the Reserve Commission  
to the Chief Commissioner of Lands:

1876. - 8<sup>th</sup> Sept

1878 17 July

1. Nov.

21 Oct.

1877 27 April.

These letters will show you that, regretting, as I did,  
not having been able, in 1876 & 7, to attend to the  
interests of these poor people - the Klahooses, Hiammas  
and Ahmatthkos, I nevertheless, whether engaged  
in the interior or not, repeatedly brought their  
position to the notice of the Provincial Government.  
Notwithstanding this, the Provincial Government,  
by which I mean Mr Elliott's as well as Mr  
Walker's, paid no attention to the requests of the  
Reserve Commission respectfully proffered,  
and Mr Walker's Government sold the timber  
land which, the Indians wished to have, <sup>(See inf.)</sup> and  
refused or neglected to reserve temporarily even those  
pieces of land which, as likely to suit for crops,  
I asked Mr Hughes, the assistant Land Comm<sup>r</sup>  
New Westminster, to reserve, pending my examination  
of the District - see my enclosed copy of letter to Mr Hughes

19<sup>th</sup> Feb 1879, and of his reply dated Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 1879

I was several times in consultation with Bishop  
Suriend of the Roman Catholic Church relative to  
these tribes, which by his great exertions and  
trustworthy to a reasonable adjustment of their land  
questions, have been brought together in one village  
for mutual help and improvement.

You are aware that north of Bixie on the West  
side of the Gulf of Georgia and Jarvis Inlet on the East  
side, there is not an acre of land reserved for any  
Indian tribe. I have further, though engaged in the  
interior, corresponded with Mr J. M. Dawson of the  
Geological Survey respecting the lands which he  
had examined in the Gulf which might suit these  
tribes Indians, and in short, for three years past  
have done everything that was possible to attend  
to the interests of these people during the enforced  
absence of the Commission elsewhere.

I visited them last winter, in Jan'y, in consequence  
of their messages, but the snow, unfortunately, came,  
and we could not move about to visit the places  
they were anxious that I should see.

When, in obedience to your orders, I began work on  
the coast, these, naturally were the Indians whom  
I first visited, and their gratification at the prospect  
of at least getting their land matters <sup>seem to</sup> was shown  
by the rapidity with which many of them came  
to my schooner over 100 miles in their canoes.

It was, while engaged among them and trying  
to mitigate their great disappointment with respect  
to their timber land, and to find some potatoe lands  
that I received the letter of the Chief Commissioner  
of Lands dated 7 Augt (copy enclosed to you in mine  
of 29 Augt 1879) in which the Chief Comm<sup>r</sup> of  
Lands, giving the correspondence of 3 years with



with his Department as to these Indians, and also the correspondence relative to the conditions on which you were willing I should work in the future during the remainder of this season, describes your instructions to me as "most impolitic and calculated to do more harm than good". I am extremely unwilling to impute any other than public motives to this Act, but I cannot find any reasonable explanation of it.

Are these Indians, still without land 22 years after the establishment of the Colony and 8 years after Confederation not to have any, now, even after what they most desired and repeatedly asked for, has been sold and placed beyond their reach, unless the Dominion Government took great trouble to get it back? I do not believe that Mr. Walker or any of his colleagues has acted improperly, but they are ignorant of Indian Affairs and indifferent to them, and several influential persons in Victoria are much interested in land speculations in connection with Iron discoveries in Texada Island, and a possible railway terminus at Butte Valley, and they would rather that the Indians, even at this late period in the history of the Province, were left out in the cold for some time longer.

I cannot in any other way account for an outburst of spite in the Victoria Press as soon as your orders to me to work on the coast became known, and when the place I intended to visit first also became known. Immediately north of these Klakome, Shiammon and Homalthe tribes is the large and somewhat determined tribe of the Eucataws. They already have sent to me to arrange for visits. These Indians claim among other places, Salmon River Valley, respecting which there are conflicting accounts, but which some say is the best agricultural

valley in Vancouver Island. The Indians will not allow anyone to settle there. It appears to me highly necessary that the land question of the Eucataws should, if possible, be adjusted in good time, because, if any developments took place as is possible, in this Country, the Cowichan difficulty would be reproduced with the Eucataws, and the Department involved in endless trouble.

The Hudson Bay Co. claims on the Coast require to be examined. At Port Simpson now the Indians have very little land, and the Methodists have a successful mission there.

The following notices have lately been published, and the land applied for seems to me to include all the good part of the land at Port Simpson.

I have called the attention of the "Hornet" Government to the non-adjustment of Indian claims there, and at Skegway and Telegraph Passage, where others have applied for land. If the Provincial Government pay no attention to my request as regards those places, and at Nasce and Skeena where also I asked them to withhold lands. I shall be disappointed and shall regard their action as a commentary on their <sup>letter</sup> of the 1st inst. objecting to your orders for my undertaking work on the Coast.

**NOTICE**

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply to the Government for a purchase of one hundred acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C. The land is situated on the north side of the Skeena River, and running Northwesterly forty chains, then easterly forty chains, then southerly forty chains to the place of purchase. Mineral claims are known to exist on this land.

H. R. MONTGOMERY.

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H. R. MONTGOMERY.

Victoria, 27th August, 1879.

Canadian Telegraph Sept  
Victoria

St. Powell's Medical Assistant  
a partner - Victoria



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#### NOTICE.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the North shore, and running Northerly forty chains, thence Easterly forty chains, thence Southerly forty chains, and thence Westerly forty chains to the place of commencement.

No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in this neighborhood.

R. A. HORTONKING.

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No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in this neighborhood.

ERNEST R. C. HANINGTON.

Victoria, 27th August, 1879.

Canadian Telegraph Sept  
Victoria

St. Powell's Medical Assistant  
a partner - Victoria



**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the North shore, and running Northerly eighty chains, thence Easterly twenty chains, thence Southerly eighty chains, thence Westerly twenty chains to the place of commencement.  
No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
SIDNEY J. PITTS.  
Victoria, B.C., Aug. 28th, 1879.  
[Government Gazette copy.]

**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the North shore, and running Northerly forty chains, thence Easterly forty chains, thence Southerly forty chains, thence Westerly forty chains to the place of commencement.  
No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
Notice of intention to purchase was posted on the above land on August 4th.  
THOMAS KARLE.  
Victoria, B.C., Aug. 27th, 1879.

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No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
Notice of intention to purchase was posted on the above land on August 4th.  
W. B. WILSON.  
Victoria, B.C., August 27th, 1879.

**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark, on the South shore, running thence Easterly 40 chains, thence Southerly 40 chains, thence Westerly 40 chains, and thence Northerly 40 chains to said post.  
Neither mining nor mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
Notice of intention to purchase was posted on the land on the 11th inst.  
J. ROLAND HETT.  
Victoria, 27th Aug., 1879.

**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and sixty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the South shore and running in an Easterly direction forty chains, thence in a Southerly direction forty chains, thence in a Westerly direction forty chains, and thence in a Northerly direction forty chains to the place of commencement.  
No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
HENRY E. CROFTON.  
Victoria, 27th Aug., 1879.

Merchant Victoria

Merchant Victoria

Trader in Victoria

Legal agent for several persons Victoria

Stockbroker and Speculator Victoria

The above gentlemen, I suppose, imagine that Port Simpson may be a railway place. Such things show the necessity for having the Indian land claims on the coast formally adjusted without loss of time, and explain the dislike of some gentlemen in Victoria to the prospect of these claims now receiving attention.

The Indians have complained to me that they were driven from their old settlement at Beale Inlet, which place I will shortly examine. I know that the greatest pressure was brought to bear on the Provincial Government by Victoria and San Francisco speculators with respect to the acquisition of land there. The Canadian

Government have now reserved a portion of it for railway purposes, and I think the titles on which the above gentlemen relied will not be found to be strong.

I mention the Coast matters on account of their importance and because the facts may not be satisfactorily presented to the Department by persons who are interested or indifferent or not likely — — — — — unacquainted with the circumstances and facts. After having been 20 years connected with this colony, and with close, special experience among some of the wildest Coast tribes, in whose midst I carried on business, I cannot refrain from expressing surprise that some gentlemen in this place have omitted to read the plain facts of history in reference to the Coast Tribes.

The simple cause of the ill-will of the Coast Indians at Cowichan and other places was that, over 20 years ago, when settlers first came in & began to spread, the claims of the Indians were not dealt with clearly and firmly before the settlers occupied the lands.

Sir J. Douglas, indeed, intended to arrange these claims as the following extract from a despatch of his, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1861, to the Secy of State, shows, but financial difficulties and local pressure appear to have checked his intention.

Copy

Governor Douglas to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.  
Mr. Carr to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works.  
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.  
(Signed)  
I have, etc.,  
NEWCASTLE.  
character, and telling in the charge that it would entail  
of the people of Vancouver Island, is at the same time purely Colonial in its



**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and fifty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the North shore, and running Northerly eighty chains, thence Easterly twenty chains, thence Southerly eighty chains, thence Westerly twenty chains to the place of commencement.  
No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
MONEY J. PITTS.  
Victoria, B.C., Aug. 22nd, 1878.  
(Government Gazette copy.)

**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and fifty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the North shore, and running Northerly forty chains, thence Easterly forty chains, thence Southerly forty chains, thence Westerly forty chains to the place of commencement.  
No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
Notice of intention to purchase was posted on the above land on August 2nd.  
THOMAS EARLE.  
Victoria, B.C., Aug. 22nd, 1878.

**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and fifty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark on the North shore and running Northerly forty chains, thence Easterly forty chains, thence Southerly forty chains, and thence Westerly forty chains to the place of commencement.  
No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
Notice of intention to purchase was posted on the above land on August 4th.  
W. B. WILSON.  
Victoria, B.C., August 27th, 1878.

**NOTICE.**  
I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT I INTEND TO apply for permission to purchase one hundred and fifty acres of land abutting on Port Simpson, B. C., commencing at a post near high water mark, on the South shore, running thence Easterly 40 chains, thence Southerly 30 chains, thence Westerly 40 chains, and thence Northerly 40 chains to said post.  
Neither mining nor mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
Notice of intention to purchase was posted on the land on the 11th inst.  
J. ROLAND HETT.  
Victoria, 27th Aug., 1878.

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No mining or mineral claims are known to exist in the neighborhood.  
HENRY E. ORANGE.  
Victoria, 27th Aug., 1878.

Merchant Victoria

Merchant Victoria

Trader in Victoria

Legal agent for several persons Victoria

Stockbroker and Speculator Victoria

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I mention the Coast matters on account of their importance and because the facts may not be faithfully presented to the Department by persons who are interested or indifferent or not likely — — — — — unacquainted with the circumstances and facts. After having been 20 years connected with this colony, and with close, special experience among some of the wildest Coast tribes, in whose midst I carried on business, I cannot refrain from expressing surprise that some gentlemen in this place have omitted to read the plain facts of history in reference to the Coast Tribes.

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(Copy)

Governor Douglas to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(No. 24.) Victoria, 25th March, 1861.

MY LORD DUKE,—I have the honour of transmitting a petition from the House of Assembly of Vancouver Island to your Grace, praying for the aid of Her Majesty's Government in extinguishing the Indian title to the public lands in this Colony; and setting forth, with much force and truth, the evils that may arise from the neglect of that very necessary precaution.

2. As the native Indian population of Vancouver Island have distinct ideas of property in land, and mutually recognize their several exclusive possessory rights in certain districts, they would not fail to regard the occupation of such portions of the Colony by white settlers, unless with the full consent of the proprietary tribes, as national wrongs; and the sense of injury might produce a feeling of irritation against the settlers, and perhaps disaffection to the Government that would endanger the peace of the country.

3. Knowing their feelings on that subject, I made it a practice up to the year 1859, to purchase the native rights in the land, in every case, prior to the settlement of any district; but since that time in consequence of the termination of the Hudson's Bay Company's Charter, and the want of funds, it has not been in my power to continue it. Your Grace must, indeed, be well aware that I have, since then, had the utmost difficulty in raising money enough to defray the most indispensable wants of Government.

4. All the settled districts of the Colony, with the exception of Cowichan, Chemainus, and Barclay Sound, have been already bought from the Indians, at a cost in no case exceeding £2 10s. sterling for each family. As the land has, since then, increased in value, the expense would be relatively somewhat greater now, but I think that their claims might be satisfied with a payment of £3 to each family; so that taking the native population of those districts at 1,000 families, the sum of £3,000 would meet the whole charge.

5. It would be improper to conceal from your Grace the importance of carrying that vital measure into effect without delay.



The people of Victoria have at all times been in the position of having no apprehension as regards the Indians, and consequently no very keen solicitude as to their treatment, because the presence of the ships of war at Esquimalt gave them protection. The gunboats, by their trips up and down the coast, gave like protection and security to the settlers at different places, but a far better security would have been found in equitable and kindly treatment, of which the Coast tribes in general, so far as the late Colonial Government was concerned, have had small experience. It would be attempted by some persons, now, who, apparently have influence in the Provincial Government, to enforce a repetition of the mistaken and disastrous policy on the Coast alone mentioned.

Only a few of the Coast Indians near Victoria have land reserves: the mass of the people have none, and even as regards their actual village sites are at the mercy of the never defined and ill-understood clauses in British Columbia Land Acts professing to protect "Indian settlements."

It appears at the present time, that, beyond the area of the few above mentioned settled reserves, there is a good deal of speculation connected with railway imaginings, fisheries, mining &c, and those persons <sup>or who intend to be interested therein</sup> interested therein, at points on the Coast, raise an outcry, such as was effective 20 years ago when settlers first began to spread, and say, in effect, as there was said - "We are the persons to encourage - what do the Indians want with land? Keep the Commissioner back - give us room for our speculations - if the Indians complain, send a gunboat to them - we have gunboats there for 20 years and everything

"has gone well - your new fangled system of timely precaution, friendly conversation as between men" with equal rights, and gentle treatment on - equitable principles may suit the atmosphere of Ottawa, but it won't do for our shores.

I am &c

(By) Gilbert Malcolm Sproat

The Hon:

The Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs  
Ottawa

(See Vol 1) \* But the American side, in Puget Sound, the Indians have considerable timber reserves and many of them are expert loggers. Our Coast Indians in several places simply want an opportunity, and it is unpleasant to think that they cannot have as good a chance as the American Indians. The Jervis Inlet Indians, and the Klahoose Indians and Homatthos much desire timber for the purpose of logging (S. J. S. S.).

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission  
on board Schooner "Thornton"  
in full of furs  
Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> 1879

(Connection of the Indian Department  
with men of war on the coast)

Sir  
There is a subject connected with the Coast Indians which has long occupied my mind, and which, now that I am employed among them, I would respectfully ask your attention to. I may mention, that, as long ago as



1860. I had something to do with the starting of a large sawmilling and trading establishment among the West Coast Indians, whom they knew little about white people; and this settlement was under my chief control for 5 or 6 years when the Mill was stopped owing to the want of accessible timber for its supply. I recorded the results of my observation of the habits and character of the above Indians, who are types of many others, in an unpretending but careful account published under the name of "Scenes and Studies of Savage Life" of which I believe there is a copy in the Department, but if not Mr. Langeron has one.

This early acquaintance with the Coast Indians has always made me think much about them, and it has long been a matter of regret to me that the Government of the Country should have been exhibited to these Coast Indians in immediate connection with the idea of force, and no other idea, embodied in the miserable ships of war which visited the villages to admonish, or threaten and sometimes to destroy. This was the case in the Hudson's Bay Company's days, and in the days of the Crown Colony up to Confederation, and the practice has prevailed, but perhaps to a less extent, since Confederation. I am not prepared to deny that this exhibition of force has had its uses in past times among the wild tribes, and that the knowledge of the presence of gunboats in those waters is in some degree useful now, but the question in my mind is whether this display of undeclared power has not been too frequent and unvaried, and whether it is a practice which the Canadian Government will think fit to sanction.

The practice may have been defensible in Hudson's Bay or Crown Colony days, in some degree, but even then, it is said that the wrong villages have been bombarded which must have tended to confuse the minds of the inhabitants as regarded their relations to the Government. It does not <sup>seem</sup> ~~appear~~ to me to be a practice consonant with the principles of the Canadian Indian policy. I have in my possession - received from officers of the Royal Navy - articles of plunder taken from an Indian village which, in support of the police was fired upon by the ship, and entered forcibly. This took place since Confederation. It is the old method - "Send for a gunboat" - "Send for a gunboat" - but one objection to the method is that it probably punishes many innocent persons for one who is guilty, and how does the commander of a gunboat know whether there is any proof - against even the alleged criminal?

What would be said if a white town or Indian village were bombarded and plundered by one of Her Majesty's ships, on the allegation of policemen that they had been roughly treated in attempting to arrest an alleged criminal in the village? I know that there are advantages in having H. M. Ships here, and it may not be prudent to criticise too sharply, isolated acts following an inveterate custom and a common sentiment among the white population here, but bearing in mind the bad effect of a constant unvarying show of force upon the Indian mind, and also that the preservation of peace and order is the duty of the Provincial Government, and not of the Indian Department, it might be well for the latter to consider whether a policy of terrorism



and repression as regards the Coast tribes is that with which the Canadian Government would wish to be associated.

While doing nothing to arouse any feeling on the part of H. M. Naval officers, I think it would be well to avoid mixing up ships of war with the business of the Department.

The two represent different ideas, and should move in different spheres. The Navy is a reserve power which the Provincial Government may call upon, as it may upon the Canadian Militia, should its police be too weak to keep the peace. The Indian Department has a variety of duties, so I understand, which are best carried on among the Indians in an unpretending way with the help of influence and authority derived from patient and kindly intercourse, rather than from any display of secret force power.

I cannot understand how ships of war, or visits of Agents in ships of war for a few conversations with people at different places, once in two or three years, or indeed at all, can in any way help departmental work. I rather think it must do the reverse, for the Indians simply connect the Department, in consequence, with their old ship of war ideas. Nothing new, nothing salutary is presented to them. As Reserve Commissioner, were my opinion asked, I would strongly object to ships of war going ahead of me, for it would not be good policy to connect land negotiations and adjustments with any ideas of force or menace. What could I ever have done with the Interior Indians had a troop of cavalry preceded me throughout the country, and the

case is much the same with men of war on the Coast? They should be kept as far as possible away from any work of the Department.

The expectation that the presence of a ship of war can have any effect in checking whiskey traffic or drinking on any part of the Coast will not be realized. This traffic is carried on chiefly by canoes moving secretly through labyrinthine sea channels. The presence of a ship of war is known soon: she cannot go where the canoes go: her slow, formal movements unfit her for work for which, indeed, the ship of war was never intended. Those who think that the mere presence of a ship of war will have a deterrent moral effect upon whiskey trafficking or drinking, must have very simple ideas of human nature. I question if any kind of cruiser could be useful in such work. The only way to stop or check it is to get the Indians themselves to act in the matter.

The Columbian Indians formerly were permitted by the American authorities to buy whiskey in Washington Territory and they smuggled it in large quantities along our coast, but I am glad to say that a new judge in that territory has interpreted the law differently from his predecessor and Americans who sell whiskey to Columbian Indians are punished as if they sold it to American Indians. Still the traffic goes on.

The foregoing remarks on Coast matters generally suggest some reference to Coast transport for Departmental purposes in the future.

I cannot too strongly recommend the Department to have nothing to do with a steamer on the Coast. A steamer is of course a very pleasant conveyance



for an Agent, but you need here an all weather boat that can go outside of Vancouver Island or Queen Charlotte Islands (where the seas and weather are often very heavy), and any thing in the shape of a steamboat capable of that work would cost a heavy sum and require a comparatively large crew. Reference to the Marine Dept at Ottawa will enable you by seeing the accounts of the "Sir James Douglas" to form an idea of what steamboats cost here.

A small steam launch, though capable of making trips in light weather in the inland waters, would be unsuitable for all the kinds of work, and her working expenses would exceed those of the description of boat really required for the general purposes of the Department on the coast. This kind of boat, I think, from my own experience, and after consulting practical mariners should be as follows.

A wooden schooner of 20 to 25 Tons register, yacht lines (so as to work well to windward) coppered and copper fastened.

Wood is better here, because iron or steel vessels cannot be easily repaired.

Schooner rig is desirable as the sails are more easily handled, and a schooner lies to better in heavy weather.

A boat of 20 to 25 tons, well handled, will live where any vessel will live, and will afford sufficient accommodation for the crew and for the Indian Agent.

As to the crew, 2 men, so far as sailing is concerned would be able to take her anywhere and could deal with her sails, anchors and spars. It would be convenient when the Agent was on

board, to have a cook, but whether a cook would be required would depend on experience. He might or might not be required. The vessel would be well manned with 2 men and a cook, and thorough manning in case of heavy weather or one getting sick or hurt might prove to be true economy.

A Captain steadily employed, would require about \$30 a month or a little more. The other man \$35, and a cook, if required, say \$30.

The best way to get such a boat built would be to get a model from good roughwater yacht builders (the Cape Ann mackerel boats, State of Maine, are said to be good useful sea boats and fast) and build the boat here of Douglas fir.

I think the cost plainly and substantially fitted, would not exceed \$3500 - possibly it might be brought down to \$3000.

Barring serious accidents she will last from 20 to 30 years, with perhaps a suit of sails once in 3 years, say \$200.

The cables should last 8 to 10 years.

Expenditure necessary to keep her in good working trim should not exceed about \$250 per annum - I mean new ropes, paint mending sails &c.

The navigation in these singular narrow waters, with occasional outside trips, is so peculiar that it would be well to refer my proposed model here for approval before execution. In addition to the small boat for ordinary purposes, there should be a smart larger boat fitted with sails and capable of beating to windward, for going up



into a day or two away from the Schooner.

This boat might be stowed between the masts, and taken in & out by the throat hatchways.

I think it does not much matter what the schooner draws in these waters.

Probably she should have a flush deck fore and aft, so that the booms can come well down to help in going to windward. The crew, being small, might conveniently occupy a cabin with bunks and a chart table in the very after part of her with a companion hatch immediately forward of the wheel.

It is useful in case of a squall, for the man at the wheel to have his mate below within immediate call.

The next compartment should be the store room entered by a passage from the crew's after cabin, so that the Cook from forward would have to come aft for the stores for daily use & not have the storeroom too handy.

The size of the storeroom should be sufficient for a spare puncheon of water, spare canvas, ropes &c, and provisions for 4 months say for 4 people; (there might be an interpreter on board.) The next forward compartment should be a large comfortable cabin for the Agent not less than 6 feet in height. He might spend many months in this, so should have as much room and light as possible.

This cabin, if thought fit might be divided into a sleeping cabin and a dining cabin as the Agent might desire. The crew might dine in the dining room. There should be, next, a water closet and bathroom & small workroom. Forward of these would come

the pantry and galley, and then the Chaullockies.

The modeller could plan the best companion ways, for such an arrangement as above mentioned I leave to mention my views on these matters to give you an opportunity of judging of requirements, and as I have heard of suggestions for a steamer for the purposes of the Indian Department here, which I feel sure would cause a large unnecessary expenditure.

I have indicated a vessel costing, for a first expense, say \$3500, and likely to be kept in repair for 250 a year with \$200 every 3 years for new sails, and such a vessel should last at least 20 years, so that the distribution of cost over her lifetime would be little per annum. X

If you took the view held by me that an expert mountaineer Agent should do a great deal (under the administrative officer) in managing affairs on the mainland and interior, I would now say further, that by taking the trouble to choose a suitable Coast Sub-Agent you might get a sailorman competent to act as Captain of the Schooner, and Agent when the Chief was not himself on the Coast, and thus, as regards the Schooner, you would save (if the man could be found) the expense of Captain, and when the Schooner was not wanted, the Cook could be discharged, and the only man on pay would be the mate, who would then act as shipkeeper.

I would have no hesitation in guaranteeing, under these ~~examined~~ arrangements for merely two competent active Sub-Agents



liable to be transported wherever their services were required, and among Indian Agency and help as the people might be found fitted for, that there could be effective visitations, and that you could know the actual condition of Indian Affairs both in the interior and the Coast every three months. The Coast Agent, when required, could be directed to examine the condition of the Indians up the Fraser to Yale.

I would also additionally remark that supposing you approved these foreshadowed arrangements in general so far as to determine on the construction of a schooner for future departmental purposes, the existence of such means of transport would in the meantime, save on the Coast a considerable expenditure in the transport of the Rescue Commission, and in the transport of the surveying parties which must follow - whether or not you approved the suggestion made in mine of 12<sup>th</sup> May 1879 for the economical prosecution of Coast surveys. The more I study these requirements in connection with Indian Business, the more ways do I see of saving money by forethought and judicious combination of effort and as, so far as I can judge, the result would be just as satisfactory to the Indians. I dare leave to state my views, as above, in detail, <sup>at what</sup> considering the importance of the question, may not I hope, be considered an incommensurate length.

Yours truly

Superintendent Genl  
of Indian Affairs

Yours truly

Col. G. M. Spruce

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria 9 Sept. 1879

The Government Agent  
Lillooet

Dear Sir

I told the Fountain Chief when I saw him at Lytton that it was ~~not~~ then determined whether I should continue work in the Interior or go upon the Coast for the remainder of the Season and I said that as soon as I myself was informed I would let you know for the information of the Indians. Please tell them that the Govt of Canada have directed me to work on the Coast & oblige

yours truly  
signed Gilbert M. Spruce  
Commissioner

P.S

Will you kindly explain to the Chiefs the new Fence arrangements they said that the Indians had been found for trespass on unfenced white man's lands but the new law I think does not permit this  
G.M.S

Ind. Res. Commission  
on board Schooner Thornton  
Gulph of Georgia 4 Sept. 1879

Dear Sir

I have been instructed to work on the Coast so till I get up your way again the only thing that I can do with your



letter of the 2 July is to put it with the others on the same subject until an opportunity occurs for practically considering the proposal with best regards I am Dear Sir

Yours Truly  
Signed G. M. Sproat  
Commissioner

J. L. Barnes Esq.  
Butte Ranch  
Thompson River

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commissioner

Sept 11 - 1877

Sir

I am in copy of a letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> ult which I have received from Mr Greenlow of Okanagan in which he states that you have referred him to me for a settlement of a matter dealt with in 1877 by the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> under instructions from the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup> to the Commissioners on the Com<sup>rs</sup>.

May I ask that you will have the goodness to inform me whether Mr Greenlow's statement is correct, and if so what it is that you desire me to do in the matter.

I am Sir or

Sd, G. M. Sproat Com<sup>r</sup>.

The Hon.

The Ch. Com<sup>r</sup>

Land & Works

Victoria

Indian Res Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 11 Sept 1877

Dear Sir

I have received your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. and have addressed a letter of this date to the Ch. Com<sup>r</sup> of Land & Works on the subject as per enclosed copy.

The late Prov. Gov. authorised the Prov. Com<sup>r</sup> to deal with your matter after it was specially referred to them.

J Greenlow Esq.  
Okanagan

Yours truly  
Sd, G. M. Sproat Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 11 Sept 1877

Nichol. Lytton,  
Lake Indian Interpreter  
to Ind. Res. Com<sup>r</sup>

Mr Sproat has directed me to forward to you at Lytton the sum of one hundred dollars being the amount due you for services in connection with said Com<sup>r</sup> to the 19 August last. No good enough to give Mr. M. Lytton the certificate I gave you for the above amount who will forward it to me.

Yours truly  
Sd, Geo. Blenkinsop



Victoria 11 Sept 1879

Mr H. C. Lytton

Dear Sir,

I forward by this Post a cheque for \$100.00 due Meakel to the 19 August last addressed to him to your care.

He holds a certificate from me for this amount being due him on the above date. Will you ask him for this and forward it to me first opportunity.

Address P. Office Victoria.

Yours &c  
J. G. M. Sproul Com<sup>r</sup>

British Columbia  
Chas. Res. Com<sup>r</sup>

1879. Sept 12.

Grand Jury Report. Cassiar

Sir,

Following my letter of the 4 inst. as to coast work I beg leave to annex newspaper clipping with report of the Cassiar Grand Jury expressing a desire for what they consider the long-delayed visit of the Reserve Com<sup>r</sup> to that portion of the coast. It will not be possible for me to reach that place this year. I send the clipping as some additional evidence that the Chief Commissioner of Lands probably erred hastily in characterising your instruction as "most impolitic and likely to do more harm than good." His error in judgment in this matter arising perhaps from his not having kept

the run of the correspondence, is now, however, so well established that it does not seem necessary for me to allude, further, to the subject.

I am, Sir, &c

J. G. M. Sproul Com<sup>r</sup>

The Hon.

The Sup. Genl of  
Indian Affairs. Ottawa

British Columbia  
Chas. Res. Com<sup>r</sup>

Schooner "Thornlon"

13 Sept 1879

Mr. Sutton's map on the  
Cowichan Reserve

Sir,

Since writing to you on this subject on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. Mr Powell informs me that he has instructions to go to Cowichan, and accordingly I have sent him a map, and a letter of suggestions as per enclosed copy.

I enclose,

for your information, a sketch of the locality. The question is much simplified by the mill buildings not being on the Reserve - a fact which in so conveniently accessible a place it should not have taken two years to discover.

I am, Sir

&c

J. G. M. Sproul Com<sup>r</sup>

The Hon.

The Sup. Genl  
Indian Affairs  
Ottawa



Schomer Thornton  
13 Sept 1879

Sir,  
I send you the Surveyor's map of the  
Owieshan Reserve, but this map is not yet  
approved by me. It, however, probably shows,  
with correctness, the locality near Mr Sutton's  
mill. I find that the whole of the mill  
and machinery except perhaps a corner of one  
of the builens, is not upon the Indian Reserve  
but upon the foreshore. If the Dom. Govt give  
permission to Mr Sutton to occupy that ground,  
he need not have any apprehension as to the  
security of the main portion of his investment,  
and the Indian Dept. need not concern itself  
therein.

The question also with the Indians will  
also be simplified by this fact, because it  
can be explained to them that the mill is  
not upon their land, and what is desired  
is land for the accommodation of the workmen,  
blacksmiths shops &c, and water for the builens  
from two springs on the Reserve.

Judging by the eye  
the land purported to be sold to Mr Sutton by  
the Prov. Govt. will be about 60 acres. It is rocky  
and hilly, and what the mill seems really to  
require is about 10 acres of the reserve. Mr Sutton's  
object in buying the 60 acres perhaps was to secure  
one of the two springs, but I doubt if the spring  
is in the land which he claims. He may have  
desired, further, to have some command of the  
shore so as to prevent others from occupying, but  
there is not much in this object. The water is not  
used by the Indians and is not likely to be.

The position of the Dominion Govt in relation  
to the act of the Prov. Govt is the first matter to  
be considered. The non-checking of this illegal  
act has led to other illegal acts of the same  
kind and it will be unfortunate if the Prov.  
Govt get the idea that they may do what they  
like with Indian lands and that the Dom.  
Govt. will acquiesce. Mr Sutton should recog-  
nize this and meet the Dom. Govt. as they are  
trying to help him. He should surrender  
his Crown Grants from the Prov. Govt. and ask  
for their cancellation as issued in error.

This would put matters right between the  
two Governments.

Then Mr Sutton might obtain from the  
Dom. Govt.

1) Licence to use the foreshore  
for his mill and booms and wharves.

2) Authority from Ind. Dept. to  
use water for mill purposes during con-  
tinuance of the mill as a going concern  
from the two springs and to convey the  
water through a portion (if any) of the  
Reserve to the mill.

3) Conveyance from Ind. Dept., or  
agreement to convey, by consent of the  
Indians such portion of the Reserve and on  
such conditions as the Indians agree to.

I think it would be better they should be  
asked for 10 acres rather than 60. The 60 acres  
look large on a map, and the 10 acres, so far  
as I know, would under the above arrangement  
include everything Mr Sutton requires, and if  
the Chiefs formerly agree (I am told some are above)  
and the fact is recorded he will probably not



be troubled in future. Mr. Sutton, of course, will not be able to get back any money from the Prov. Govt.

Were these suggestions approved I fancy the Dept. at Ottawa and Mr. Sutton might advantageously come to an understanding before you mentioned the matter to the Indians, and then the whole proposed adjustment would be seen through. Mr. Sutton for though doubtless knowing his father's mind, generally, would probably not have full authority to act for him in this matter.

Yours truly  
J. M. Sprunt.

Col. Powell  
Her Sup<sup>ts</sup> Victoria

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

13 Sept 1879

The Hon

The Hudson Bay Co. Victoria  
Gentlemen,

In reference to your letter of this date I beg to state that having seen in the newspapers and gazette several notices of applications to purchase lands at Fort Simpson, I wrote on the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. to remind the Prov. Gov. that Indian land questions were not yet adjusted there.

I think it would be well if the Hudson Bay Co. for themselves, wrote a similar letter to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Com<sup>r</sup> of Lands & Works.

I do not anticipate that there would be much difficulty in adjusting the respective claims of the Company and the Indians on the basis you mention, but if the surrounding land should be sold a deadlock would probably be produced.

I am Gentlemen &c  
J. M. Sprunt Com<sup>r</sup>

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

14 Sept 1879

Sir

Survey Branch

Referring to my letter of 6 June enclosing for your information copy of a memo of Instructions for Surveyors, I have now the honor to enclose copy of a letter from the Deputy Super<sup>or</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Indian Affairs dated 30 August 1879 upon that subject.

Col. Powell

Her Sup<sup>ts</sup> Victoria

I am &c &c  
J. M. Sprunt Com<sup>r</sup>

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

14 Sept 1879

Sir,

Referring to my letter to you of the 6 June last I enclose for your information and attention copy of a letter from the Dep. Sup<sup>or</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> of Indian Affairs to me 30 Aug<sup>st</sup> 1879. I have sent a copy also to Mr. McKim & Dr. Powell. I am &c &c  
J. M. Sprunt Com<sup>r</sup>



Ottawa, as the following paragraph.

"The Rems of Instructions to Surveyors  
'will be returned from each Reserve to  
'the Commissioners in accordance with the  
'instructions on its cover and the Field  
'Books sent to the Indian Super<sup>r</sup> New  
'Westminster (in whose Sup<sup>r</sup> the Survey  
'work of this year is) - the originals  
'and duplicates being sent by different  
'mails'.

I think I have omitted to  
send this extract to you sooner but I dare  
say some of the Field Books have as yet  
reached your Office.

When they do so,  
may I ask that you will keep them safely  
until the Dept. appoints some one to get them.

Yours truly  
Jas. L. Smith  
Ind. Sup<sup>r</sup> C. H. M.  
St. C. M. Sprunt Com<sup>r</sup>

The address "Victoria" will  
find me. The Sup. Gen. finding  
that the Prov. Gov. would do  
nothing to adjust water questions  
in the Interior has instructed  
me to work on the Coast — (Jas. L. Smith)

Indian Reserve Commissioner  
B. Columbia

12 Sept 1879

Sir,  
I have received your letter of the 28 ult. on  
the subject of a request made by Chilikeetsa  
for more grass at Chapperson Lake.

Please

explain to him that a white man had applied for  
this land and gone to the expense of surveying  
it, and that the race-course and fishing station  
were assigned to the Indians as their old fishing  
station settlement, so to speak, and such grass  
as they might reasonably need during their  
sojourn to the place. It was not intended to be  
occupied all the year by the Indians and so  
the question is whether there is not enough  
grass under these circumstances in what you  
have marked out.

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
St. C. M. Sprunt.

E. M. C. C. C.  
K. M. C. C. C.

P.S. A number of Indians go there but as I  
understood only for a few weeks and to them  
it would be a convenience to have a reasonable  
local supply of hay.

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission

In Camp "Euclatan"  
(properly "Laich. Knil. tach")  
Rapids near Cape Mudge  
11 Oct 1879.

Reference number  
14, 830

Census of Indians

Sir,

I have received your letter of 2 Sept last,  
enclosing extract from a letter of the 4 August last,  
written by Mr. L. Smith, Indian Superintendent,  
to you in which he calls in question the accuracy  
of the statistics given in the statement of the



Indian census forwarded in my letter of the 3 July last.

The Census now being taken is the first official Census of the Indians of the Province which it has been attempted to take, and I consider it as one of the most important matters under my care as being closely connected with my own special duties and as forming the basis of Indian administration.

I will explain the procedure in enumerating the Indians for your information.

The general objects of the Census is in the first place explained to the people, some of whom, as you have been advised, have shown an unwillingness to be counted. Their objections have been in all cases removed. The Indians have been told that the enumeration is, and how accurate the information which they give us must be, and how certain any wrong statements are to be discovered.

The whole of the people are assembled and the whereabouts of a dead absent ones, as well as the causes of absence, noted.

The questions and answers take place in the hearing of all, and with the assistance of a first rate interpreter, and the answers are not given hurriedly but are discussed among the Indians themselves, and between them and the enumerator, before the record is made.

Mr George Blenkinsop who is employed in this duty has been 39 years in this country, having been long in the Hudson Bay Co. Service, and has been more or less connected with work among Indians during the whole of that time. Not only has he therefore in his power a large pre-

sumption of capability, but I can say that having seen him at work under me for three years past, he is a valuable and indefatigable officer very specially qualified for enumerating the Indians in a manner to satisfy the requirements of the Department.

When Mr Blenkinsop has finished his work at a particular place, I take steps to form a general judgment of its accuracy by conversing with intelligent settlers resident in the neighbourhood, and by referring to such enumerations as I may have received from Clergymen or others.

Thus every precaution is taken to ensure reasonable accuracy to the official Census.

I may add that, as is known to persons acquainted with the Indian character, the people of different though friendly tribes of one group are jealous of the introduction into the tribal census of people belonging to other tribes.

This is a great security for an accurate enumeration of the several tribes at a given date, though of course, in the lapse of years, both men and women, as a result of intermarriage or migration with consent, pass from one tribe to another.

These changes might be known to the Department, if its local business were adapted for such enquiries.

The Indians at particular places sometimes, have been in doubt as to whether a man had to be in one tribe or another, and the name has been held in reserve, until they had determined the point when they have



sent a special messenger to get the proper record made. They have also sent to our camp information as to births and deaths, after the census was taken, which, though I could not notice these changes, shows the light in which they regard the enumeration in the Census book.

With respect to the stock possessed by the Indians, the horses cattle &c are, when possible, seen by Mr Blenkinsop, and very proud of them, the Indians are to show them. But it is unnecessary to say that in a country where stock are turned out to roam, and only occasionally driven up, as census enumerators, whether in the matter of whites or Indians could propose to himself to view every head.

There is the same check upon returns made by the Indians as upon returns that might be made by whites, namely, the general estimate of the supervising officers from various confirmatory sources.

In connection with this I may mention two facts. First, the Indians, I must say have in regard to all matters connected with the Land adjustment, shown trustfulness, whatever their general character for veracity may be.

They have often told me things which went directly against their interests, and they have made statements about old matters which I disbelieved but afterwards found to be correct when I investigated old records. The Indians probably have a sense of responsibility in regard to statements made for the information of the Gov. respecting such work as I am engaged in. Whether or not, the fact is, as above stated.

Secondly, in

all cases when a statement made by the Indians about their stock has been questioned on the spot, I have insisted, investigation, and with the general result of proving, as far as might be, the accuracy of Mr Blenkinsop's Census.

I may mention one among many such cases. The Asst. Land Comr. at Okanagan, himself a cattle owner and a resident for 12 years beside the Indians, who also stated that he could speak their language, decidedly questioned the census.

I invited him to the camp. I said "take a pencil - put down names of men, and the stock each has". He did so, and shortly laid his pencil down, having already exceeded the census.

The letter of Mr. Jas. Lenihan, now under review, seems to me to contain a portion of the course taken of persons who, without knowledge or the means of acquiring it in reference to the Indian Census, have often expressed themselves to me in a similar manner in different parts of the country. I do not understand on what reasonable grounds Mr Lenihan, resident in New Westminster, and without experience in enumerating Indians (at least I have been unable to get any Census from him of any portion of his Superintendency) should criticise, or rather condemn in the lump, the work during 3 years past of a highly competent officer, carried on with the precautions above stated, in districts which Mr Lenihan has not visited.

I think that Mr Lenihan should have communicated to me any information in his possession



which be considered to be more authentic than that obtained by exhaustive local inquiries, seeing that my only object is to obtain correct statements for your information.

I shall be glad if he will make such a communication now, so that I may take such steps as may be necessary to improve and further secure our census returns. To do this Mr. Benham must state particulars as follows.

- ' State the name of the person who took the census
- ' proposed to be set up, the date and place
- ' of taking it, the interpreter employed, the
- ' procedure employed in taking the census,
- ' the method of supervision, the name and
- ' limits (very clearly) of the people in question,
- ' and then state in tabular details the names
- ' of the Indian men and other particulars of
- ' the census, which Mr. Benham desires to place
- ' in opposition to the official census taken
- ' by Mr. Benham.

Do the above in reference to a sufficient number of separate localities and tribes, to enable a judgment to be formed on the sweeping condemnation in Mr. Benham's letter.

In any census of Indians, and indeed of whites, there must be inaccuracies, and after the lapse of a year or two, possibly, considerable changes from the effect of marriages or deaths of people, the destruction of stock in severe winters, its consumption for food, and other obvious causes, but such changes can be estimated roughly in any case which Mr. Benham produces.

Yours faithfully,

the detailed census which Mr. Benham proposes to set up is not found to be worthy of comparison with the official census it will not be necessary further to notice it, and he like some others here who jump to conclusions respecting Indian affairs, will have been hasty in his judgment, and not, I must think very kind in his remarks to a deserving officer employed in important work, but if on the other hand Mr. Benham's census is of superior accuracy then the fact should be known soon, and I must take my share of the blame.

I am, Sir,

Your obedt Servt.

Wm. Spruce Esq.

The Hon.

The Sup. Gen. of

Indian Affairs Ottawa

British Columbia  
Ind. Affs. Commission

Camp Euclataw Rapids  
near Cape Mudge  
11 Sept. 1879.

Sir,

Following my letter to you of 26 April last I annex for the information of the Warden and Council copy of a letter from the Sup. Gen. to me showing the view of the Hon. Gov. as to the making of highways through Indian Reserves.

I am Sir,

Your obedt Servt.

Wm. Spruce Esq.

D. McMillan Esq.

Clerk of the Municipal

Council Chilliwack



British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission

In camp "Enclaton"  
(properly Laich. Koot. tach),  
Rapids near Cape Mudge.  
11 Oct 1877

Sir,

(Case of Thomas Greenhow at Okanagan  
and action of Provincial Govt thereon)

I beg to enclose copies of the following  
letters.

- (1) Thomas Greenhow to me 30 August 1877
  - (2) My reply 11 Sept 1877
  - (3) My letter 11 Sept 1877
- to the Hon. Sec. of the Interior

I have not received any reply from the  
Chief Com<sup>r</sup> to my letter of the 11 Sept above  
referred to. It is not likely that I shall do so,  
and I have no doubt that Mr Greenhow's statement  
is correct.

In further explanation of the subject  
of this correspondence (which I may remark  
is entirely distinct from the O'Keefe question  
at Okanagan) I enclose a Memorandum  
showing what was done in 1877 and  
particularly the authority directly given  
by the then Provincial Government (see Telegram  
from Mr. Elliott 22 Sept 1877) to the Comm<sup>r</sup>  
to adjust it, without raising difficult questions.

Every one has supposed that this  
question was then finally settled, and you  
will notice that every precaution and

formality were observed.

I very much regret  
to have to submit this case to you, for I am  
constrained to say that it points to bad faith  
on the part of the Provincial Govt or (which  
I would rather believe) to an unbusinesslike  
indifference causing an imperfect appreciation  
of facts that should be within their knowledge.

In other cases, I respectfully  
submit the matter to your attention, as there  
are others of a similar character whose  
solution rests on the presumed recognition  
by the Provincial Government of their  
obligations.

I am, Sir,

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
G. M. Sprat Com<sup>r</sup>

The Hon.  
The Secy. of the  
Indian Affairs Ottawa

The following letters were sent with a  
slight connecting narrative

- Copy From Prov<sup>d</sup> Joint Com<sup>r</sup> to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secy. dated 18<sup>th</sup> Okanagan Lake 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Feb., — Ditto. to Hon A.C. Elliott — Ditto 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Feb., — Ditto to Ditto — Ditto 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Feb., — A.C. Elliott to Mr. Kinney & Sprat — Victoria 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Sept., — Prov<sup>d</sup> Joint Com<sup>r</sup> to Mr. Greenhow — 18<sup>th</sup> Okanagan Lake 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Author<sup>ty</sup> for 3 Com<sup>r</sup>s to act as arbitrators by Mr Greenhow — Ditto 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Award respecting 160 ac. to Mr Greenhow — Ditto 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Letter from Prov<sup>d</sup> Joint Com<sup>r</sup> to Hon A.C. Elliott dated Ditto 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 77
- Copy, Letter from Ditto J.R. Com<sup>r</sup> to C.A. Kinney dated Ditto 1 Oct 77



H. C. J. R. L. Com<sup>rs</sup>

In camp near Cape Mudge  
11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1879

Sir,

I enclose copy of a letter of this date from me to Mr. Ashen showing that I wish the Nicola Valley Reserves finished, if possible, this season.

You appear to be neglecting that portion of your instructions, relating to fortnightly advices.

I am Sir &c &c  
S. J. M. Spruce Com<sup>rs</sup>

Capt. Semmelt  
Indian Reserve Survey  
Nicola Valley

Anti-Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

In camp near Cape Mudge  
11 Oct 1879

(Chillikoota's Reserve)

Sir,

In reference to the sketch enclosed in yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> Sept the reserve at Salmon Lake will include the portion coloured red and that shows with a red margin, so as to afford some dry land for the use of the horses of the Indians who resort thither.

Alexander's story has no foundation

E. Ashen Esq.  
Indian Res. Survey  
Nicola Valley

I am Sir &c &c  
S. J. M. Spruce  
Com<sup>rs</sup>

In camp near Cape Mudge  
11 Oct 1879

Sir,

You appear to be neglecting that portion of your instructions relating to fortnightly advices, and I also call your attention to the urgency of the addresses from which you date your letter and to the non-description of your whereabouts and proposed movements.

Though your official diary will show this at the end of the season, I wish to know it from time to time.

Yours Ad<sup>ly</sup>  
E. Ashen Esq. (to)  
Nicola Valley }  
S. J. M. Spruce Com<sup>rs</sup>

H. C. J. R. L. Com<sup>rs</sup>

In camp near Cape Mudge  
11 Oct 1879

Sir,

In reply to yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> Sept I think that the Nicola Valley Reserves, particularly those outside of the Railway Belt, should be finished this season.

If it is possible to work advantageously after finishing these reserves, which owing to the lateness of the season is however doubtful, you have instructions for Skuppah, Kanaka Flat and Siska, and to these places accordingly you and Captain Semmelt will proceed, but neither party should abandon work in Nicola Valley without it being clear that the whole valley will be finished this season.



In case Skuppat, Kauaka Flat, and  
Sitkoh should not suffice I send instructions  
for the Boobyay group.

I send copy of  
this to Capt. Semmell.

Yours truly

J. M. Sprat Com<sup>r</sup>

Chas. E. C. }  
Indian Res. Surveys }  
Nicola Valley }

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

In Camp near Cape  
Mudge 11 Oct 1877

Surrey Branch

Sir,

Referring to the amended method of dealing  
with the Field notes and sketches of the  
surveyors employed on Indian Reserves (see  
mine of 25 Feb last), I beg to mention that  
Capt. Semmell and Mr. Moken are sending  
documents in now from the places they have  
worked in, and that it is desirable these  
should be examined and plotted so that  
the Provincial Govt. may have as ground for  
complaint that the information they  
require as regards the reserves is delayed.

I accordingly beg to ask you to appoint  
some one to plot these surveys.

As the Field notes arrive  
at intervals, it will not be necessary that  
the gentleman employed should be on monthly pay.

He should be paid for the days on which he works.

I am &c &c

The Hon<sup>r</sup>

The Sup<sup>r</sup> General  
of Ind. Affairs (Ottawa)

J. M. Sprat Com<sup>r</sup>

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

In Camp near Cape  
Mudge 11 Oct 1877

Surrey Branch

Sir,

In reference to my letter of 12 May  
last making suggestions relative to the survey  
of many of the Coast reserves, I have now  
had some experience by actual visits to  
portions of the coast which are a fair sample  
of the whole, and I am of opinion that  
the suggestion would, if adopted, save  
the Government many thousands of dollars  
on survey account.

I am Sir &c &c

J. M. Sprat Com<sup>r</sup>

The Hon<sup>r</sup>

The Sup<sup>r</sup> Gen. of  
Indian Affairs (Ottawa)

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

In Camp near Cape

Mudge 11 Oct 1877

Sir,

The Provincial Govt. not having conveyed to  
the Com<sup>r</sup> Ind. the Reserves for which I sent



them sketches and field notes on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Nov.  
 lat. I have told Mr. Powell, to should, in  
 my absence, keep the matter alive, and in  
 case of need, bring any continued delay  
 before notice, if he finds the Provincial Govt.  
 inactive.

As most of the reserves are  
 within the temporary railway reserves,  
 perhaps the Prov. Govt. do not think it necessary  
 to hurry in the matter, but it is unfortunate  
 that progress in these Indian matters is so  
 difficult.

It would seem desirable that the  
 Prov. Govt. should begin to survey lands for  
 the Indians as they have had ample time  
 to examine the field notes if they wished to  
 do so.

I am Sir &c

Yr. Obedt Servant

Wm. H. H.

The Sup. Gen. of  
 Indian Affairs Ottawa

In Camp near  
 Cape Mudge  
 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 1879

Sir/

I return the map of the Victoria Reserve  
 which you sent me. I have taken a tracing  
 of it. Mr. Farwell thinks that this map  
 is the only existing map of the Reserve, and  
 I do not therefore like to keep it on shipboard  
 where it might be lost.

Col. Powell  
 Indian Superintendent  
 Victoria

Your Obedt Servant  
 J. H. H.

British Columbia  
 Indian Reserve Commission  
 In Camp near Cape Mudge  
 11 Oct 1879

Sir/

In the instructions issued for Surveyors  
 it is stated that "one month's pay of the"  
 "Surveyor will be retained until his accounts"  
 "have been passed and his performance of"  
 "instructions examined"

I have been told that tents and other  
 articles were ordered by the Surveyors this  
 year which were not required, and for which  
 the Government should not pay.

I shall be glad if you will give me a list  
 of payments made on account of surveys now  
 in progress so that I may form an opinion  
 and let you know, if the margin of a month's  
 pay will suffice for the security of the Department.

I am &c

J. H. H.

Mr. Powell

Indian Superintendent  
 Victoria

British Columbia  
 Indian Reserve Commission  
 In Camp near Cape Mudge  
 1879. 11<sup>th</sup> October

Sir/

### Report of Progress

I have been working among the  
 Klahoose, Shammong, and Homatthko  
 Indians, and am now at this camp,  
 beside the Village of one branch of the

"Luclataw", or more properly "Laich-kwil-tach" Indians.

Coming along the coast of the mainland from Burrard's Inlet, the first Indian people are the Skwawmish of Howe Sound, whom I described particularly in my letters from Howe Sound in Nov or Decr 1876.

Next to the northward are the Se-shells of Jarvis Inlet; who by the unpretentious work among them of the Roman Catholic Church have been made moral and industrious.

Farther north still along the mainland coast are the above mentioned Klahow Shiammon and Stomatthko Indians, who, also, have been greatly improved by the labours of the Catholic priests. This work of the Catholic Church among the Se-shells and the Klahow Shiammon and Stomatthko Indians is worthy of attention owing to its unpretending character and its manifest success. The people who, owing to the nature of the country have to find their living by hunting and fishing over a large extent of the coast, are so scattered in summer that it would be difficult for the priest to visit all of them. But they come together at their winter quarters where they have a village of good houses and a Church, and there they are visited and receive religious instruction. The effectiveness of this may be ascertained by conversation with traders and woodmen on the coast who state that the women are moral and that the men do not drink. The canoe's crew I had with me sang their hymns night and morning and respectfully reminded me that a day on which, forgetfully, I proposed doing something was

Sunday. This is a sort of improvement among the Indians which will probably have very good effects in the next generation, both as regards the physical and moral health of the people. It involves the minimum of interference with the ways of the people, and is a simple work in which the Church might be aided by the Government through an agent's attention and visits, but neither here nor anywhere on the coast so far as I have gone, can I find any trace of much needed departmental action of a practical character. The great influence of the Government in helping good work without any fuss may be illustrated by the following which Bishop Lacombe told me. He said that he had often tried, in his most useful work among these Indians, to get them to keep their children clean and warmly clad, but he had not succeeded. Last spring, to his surprise, he found, on a visit, that the children had their faces washed and were warmly clad. The Indians told him that the "Queens" Chief had noticed the children and told the people that dirt meant disease and that it was a mistake to let children run about in the cold and wet, without proper protection by good clothing. The Bishop instanced this as a proof of the great weight the Indians attach to advice from the Government - greater, it would seem, in some matters, than they attach even to Church advice. I had some difficulty in remembering that I had given such advice, but finally I remembered that in an interval when, for some reason, our talk about land ceased, my eye had rested upon the children, and I



occupied the interval by talking about the children. Later, when I visited the villages the children who (sure proof of the women's virtue) looked chubby and strong, were as clean and well dressed as one could wish to see, and some pains had been taken to brush their hair and furnish them with linen or cotton shirts or at least collars.

It was a very pleasing sight, but it was not pleasing to think that this general result of improvement was not due to any departmental help, but to the Church alone.

Dr Powell told me in Victoria. (I don't rightly understand him) that he thought the Government could do little directly with the Coast Indians, and that the most effective way was for the Government to help large missions like those at Metlakatla, started and managed by the Churches or by philanthropic bodies connected with Churches. I have not examined yet any of these large missions, but no doubt they will appear to be doing great good, though probably efforts which do not take the people as they are, may prove to lack the quality of permanence of effect. The possibility of doing great good in a very unpretending way is proved by the success of the Church work among the St. Shells, Klahoose Shiammon and Homatthko Indians, and this good might have been doubled had the Department recognised this possibility, and helped by visits and advice, and by going about in canoes among the people in a way which clergymen cannot do. I record these facts merely as part of

my experience on the Coast, so far as I have gone. I found the Shiammon, Klahoose and Homatthko Indians, most anxious about their land and desirous of doing whatever was recommended to them as right. In a rumour reaching them that I was coming, they had assembled at their winter village and waited there for two weeks, much to my regret, for they should have been at their ordinary work and preparing their winter food. Among themselves there were land questions which were debated so hotly outside my tent that I did not get to sleep till past midnight, and I was told in the morning that one man had drawn a knife upon another. These facts came strongly on my mind in view of the opinion of the Provincial Government that your orders for me to work on the Coast were "impolitic" and in view of Dr Powell's opinion expressed to me in conversation that he did not see what could be done on the Coast. I am of opinion that the Klahoose, Shiammon and Homatthko, Indians could with much advantage to the Government to themselves and the Church be organised under the Indian Act. There are many land questions among them, which they only through authorised officers of their own can satisfactorily adjust. I will in due course advise you of my progress among the people. I have now come amongst whose history and condition I fear is distressful - namely the "Lach-Kivil-tach" commonly called the "Luclataw", of whom there appear to be four divisions or subgroups:

(1) We-way-a-Kay

- (2) We-way-a-kum
- (3) Naw-lit-sah-nook
- (4) Kine-ahk-az-

Tamte.

Hyp filbert Malcolm Spout  
Commissioner

Hebber:

The Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs  
Ottawa

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission  
In camp near Cape Mudge  
11th Oct-1879.

Sir/

In reference to the late meeting of the  
Indians of the Nekla Kapa muk group  
at Lytton. They to me a clipping from  
a Victoria newspaper containing a letter from  
the Revd W. Ford the only Missionary who  
is employed among these people.  
This gentleman knows the language of the  
Nekla Kapa Munk, and you will observe  
that he ridicules the ignorant and wild  
talk of persons in Victoria in reference  
to the action of the Indians to organize  
themselves for such laudable purposes  
as cleanliness and education. The late  
meeting should bear tea in the administration  
of Indian affairs, if it is utilised.

There is a ready chorus in this Province against  
any action for, or by the native people, -  
however sensible or just it may be, but  
I consider that it would not become my position  
as practically an ~~un~~ arbitrating Commissioner

to join in newspaper controversy  
Tamte.

Hyp filbert Malcolm Spout  
Commissioner

The Hon

The Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs  
Ottawa

Copy. Telegram.

Vancouver

Deputy Sup. Gen. Ottawa

Cape Mudge 11 Oct 1879.

Please send money  
for use of Reserve Com. I have secured some  
since July.

Spout

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

1879. In camp near Cape Mudge  
Oct 13.

Indian Reserve within  
Railway Lands

Sir

Referring to the ~~above~~ newspaper clipping  
of an invitation for tenders to construct in sections  
certain railway works between Emory's Bar and  
Sawm's Ferry - 127 miles. I beg to state that there  
are a great many Indian Reserves along the  
whole line, few of which are surveyed, and  
some of which are not precisely determined owing  
to questions respecting water for irrigation.

I have no knowledge of the  
arrangements which may be proposed by the  
Department of Railways and Canals, but



in case they might include an assignment of land to a contractor for any of these sections it would seem to be necessary to withhold from alienation all lands assigned for Indian purposes, or that may be assigned; and the same remark applies to water for irrigation required or that may be required for the Indians.

Under any circumstances, if construction is proceeded with, I respectfully express an opinion that arrangements should be made with the Indians in respect of the passage of the railway line through their lands, so that their satisfaction with the recent adjustment of land questions should not be disturbed.

I presume that the Commission would be settled in accordance with the Clause 20 of the Indian Act, and that you would name an arbitrator to act on behalf of the Indians.

In this matter a proof might be speedily afforded of the utility of the Indian tribes being organized, if you confirmed the Kekla, Kap. a. muk organisation.

Instead of having to deal with numerous small tribes living over 100 miles of country, the Kekla, Kap. a. muk Council in conjunction with the arbitrator, could determine the principles on which the question of compensation should proceed in all the different classes of cases that would arise and thus a prompt and satisfactory arrangement could be made.

There would be questions respecting land, wood and water,

The land might be urban, or semi-urban or rural, it might be land of old occupation and cultivation, or it might be newly assigned land not yet used. The wood might be valuable to the Indians for fuel near their villages, or it might be an advantage to the Indians to have it cut down. The irrigation ditches and "flumes" (wooden aqueducts) might be cut in two by a railway line. I mention these to show the classes of the cases that would have to be considered.

If the Indians are dealt with in this matter, in good time, and in the same manner as white men, to the extent at least of recognising that they are not to be arbitrarily pushed aside, I do not think they will be found to be otherwise than very reasonable and moderate.

Almost all the Indians on the proposed line are Kekla, Kap. a. muk. Many of these people suffered in their moral and physical health in the early days of the Colony when there was much traffic on the waggon road.

They are now recovering and what is remarkable, are themselves desirous of maintaining a good moral position, but I view with apprehension the effect of renewed contact with numbers of men on the waggon road, such as may be employed on the railway works.

I do not know what the Department can do more to prevent this than by some improvement in administration and particularly by enabling the Kekla, Kap. a. muk people to help themselves through an organisation of their own.

The Hon.  
The Supt Genl  
Indian Affairs  
Ottawa

I am Sir  
Your obedt Servt  
S. E. McSproul Commr

**SEATED TENDERS** addressed to the undersigned and entered in the office of the Pacific Railway Commission, will be received at the office up to noon on Monday, the seventh (17th) day of November next, for certain works of construction required to be executed on the line from near Lake Kamloops, in the following sections, viz: Timor's Bar to Boston Bar, Twenty-nine miles; Boston Bar to Lytton, Twenty-nine miles; Lytton to Junction Flat, Twenty-eight and one-half miles (28 1/2); Junction Flat to Sarnia's Ferry, Forty and one-half miles (40 1/2). Specifications, Bills of Materials, Conditions of Contract, Forms of Tender, and all printed information may be obtained on application at the Pacific Railway office, in No. 2, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, and at the Office of the Engineer-in-Chief at Ottawa. Plans and Profiles will be open for inspection at the latter Office. No tenders will be entertained unless on one of the printed forms and all the conditions are complied with.  
By order,  
S. E. McSPROUL, Commr of the Pacific Railway Commission.  
Ottawa, October 27, 1879.

Indian Reserve Commr

St. Rupert 28 Oct 1879

Sir,

Referring to my letter of 29 August and 1<sup>st</sup> Sept last I have to say that I find much anxiety respecting their lands on the part of all the Indians I have visited. The Klah, Klamath, Homaletto, Enlatans, and the various Kwakwaka'wakw tribes.

Pending the results of the investigation which I am now actively making, I respectfully mention that it would appear to be very undesirable that lands not ascertained to be Indian lands or required as such should be alienated by the Prov. Gov. in this quarter, particularly at Kamisk, Salmon River, Beaver Cove or around St. Rupert, and at Campbell River. (This last is within the Railway Reserve.)

Yours truly

Houston has applied for land at Kamisk, but it is essential that no sale should be made there until the Indians reasonable requirements are ascertained.

From 1200 to 1500

Indians look to Kamisk mainly for their support.

The whole of the Indians above mentioned must number approximately 3000 (the Census is not yet completed), and until their land questions are fully adjusted, no effective missionary or governmental effort can be made among them for their improvement.

They have not, I may venture to remind you, had any lands whatsoever reserved for their use since the establishment of the colony.

I am Sir

Your obedt Servt

The Hon.  
The Ch. Commr of  
Lands & Works - Victoria

S. E. McSproul, Commr

Indian Reserve Commissioner  
British Columbia

In camp St. Rupert  
27 Oct 1879

Sir

Among the rules and regulations framed by the Hekla Kapa muk Council, now before you for consideration, there is one, namely Rule 11, which states that the "Pact" is to cease among the Hekla Kapa muk, and I made a few remarks on the subject of this rule in the explanatory notes which accompanied the rules and regulations.



The Hon.  
The Supd. Gen. of  
Indian Affairs  
Ottawa

I am Sir  
Your obedt Servt  
Sd. J. M. Sproul Comr.

**Canadian Pacific Railway**  
Tenders for Work in British Columbia.

**SEALED TENDERS**, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders Pacific Railway", will be received at this office up to noon on Monday, the seventh (7th) day of November next, for certain works of construction required to be executed on the line from near Yale to Lake Kamloops, in the following sections, viz:—  
Kinross Bar to Boston Bar, Twenty-nine miles (29).  
Boston Bar to Lytton, Twenty-nine miles (29).  
Lytton to Junction Pass, Twenty-eight and one-half miles (28½).  
Junction Pass to Sawona's Ferry, Forty and one-half miles (40½).

Specifications, Bills of Materials, Conditions of Contract, Forms of Tenders, and all printed information may be obtained on application at the Pacific Railway Office, in New Westminster, British Columbia, and at the Office of the Engineer-in-Chief at Ottawa. Plans and Profiles will be open for inspection at the latter Office. No tenders will be entertained unless on one of the printed forms and all the conditions are complied with.  
By order,  
T. BRAUN,  
Secretary Department of  
Highways & Canals,  
Ottawa, October 3rd 1878.

Indian Reserve Comr.

St. Rupert 28 Oct 1877

Sir,

Referring to my letter of 29 August and 1st Sept last I have to say that I find much anxiety respecting their lands on the part of all the Indians I have visited. The Klab house, Shiamon, Homaethor, Enclataus, and the various Kwak. Kewlet tribes.

Pending the results of the investigation which I am now actively making, I respectfully mention that it would appear to be very undesirable that lands not ascertained to be Indian lands or required as such should be alienated by the Prov. Gov. in this quarter, particularly at Kinkish, Salmon River, Beaver Cove on around St. Rupert, and at Campbell River. (The last is within the Railway Reserve.)

Yrs West

Houston has applied for land at Kinkish, but it is essential that no sales should be made there until the Indians reasonable requirements are ascertained.  
From 1200 to 1500

Indians look to Kinkish mainly for their support.

The whole of the Indians above mentioned must number approximately 3000 (the Census is not yet completed), and until their land questions are fully adjusted no effective missionary or governmental effort can be made among them for their improvement.

They have not, I may venture to remind you, had any lands whatsoever reserved for their use since the establishment of the colony.

I am Sir

The Hon.  
The Ch. Comr. of  
Lands & Works - Victoria }  
Your obedt Servt  
Sd. J. M. Sproul Comr.

Indian Reserve Commission  
British Columbia

In camp St. Rupert  
27 Oct 1877

Sir

Among the rules and regulations framed by the Kiklakapamuk Council now before you for consideration, there is one, namely Rule 11, which states that the "Pattach" is to cease among the Kiklakapamuk, and I made a few remarks on the subject of the rule in the explanatory notes which accompanied the rules and regulations.

when they were sent to you on the 26 July 1879.

I do not know whether or not the Kap<sup>t</sup> at Ottawa fully appreciates the giant evil which in this intractable and most pernicious custom has to be met and overcome.

The resolution of the Kikla Kap, a. miks in this matter is remarkable, and if supported by the Govt may have useful results. Several of the missionaries have to some extent succeeded in inducing Indian tribes to give up the custom in different parts of the country, but it is the great obstacle in their way. I regret to be obliged to admit that, so far as I can ascertain, there is some ground for the statement that little or nothing has been done by the Local Departments to weaken and uproot the "Pallatch".

The great weight and authority of the Govt, acting within its proper sphere, have not been used to attack the system, and as no material nor social progress among the Indians is possible while the "Pallatch" exists, this supineness involves a very unpleasant responsibility.

The "Pallatch" is the parent of numerous vices which eat out of the heart of the people. It produces indigence, thriftlessness, and a habit of roaming about which prevents home associations and is inconsistent with all progress. A large amount of the prostitution common among some of the coast tribes is directly caused by the "Pallatch".

The habit of the "Pallatch" is based on the common human desire for distinction which appears to be as strong among uncivilized as among civilized people. Men wish to be talked of among their

own and among neighbouring tribes, and having no literature, few arts, and no opportunity <sup>now</sup> of becoming known as vital warriors, they try to make themselves known by more or less lavish distributions of property among their own, or among other people.

Though no direct election as chief follows a continuously large distribution, the distributor puffs himself up on the strength of it, and has at least the support of numerous friends, and the credit readily given to one who excels in what many, if not all, are striving for.

The poor as well as the rich follow the practice, and spend their time and their earnings in accumulating and then in distributing. It is not possible that Indians can acquire property, or can become industrious with any good result, while under the influence of this mania.

If an Indian impelled by rivalry with another decides on holding a "Pallatch", he often has to borrow blankets from richer men, and they charge him 2 blankets for one, thus forcing grinding usury. Worst of all, a man will say to his wife, nay to his maiden daughter, that before the spring or other appointed time, he must have so many dollars for his proposed "Pallatch", and they in this way, and I believe more in this way than from licentious desire are forced into the prostitution which it has become almost a <sup>conventional</sup> thing for Indian agents to mention and deplore without seeking to strike down the hideous system which mainly produces it.

There



There is a great 'Pallatet' being held now at Cowichan which is quite close to Victoria, and Indians have gone to it from the north coast of Vancouver Island.

On undertaking work among the Cowich, Kwikwaka, or Kwakwaka'wakw society at Cape Mudge, a man brought me a book in which some white man had written for him that he had given away \$2000 worth of Blankets. The Indian came up, evidently assured that he would produce an impression on me, at this place within 100 yds of my tent there are painted over the door of an Indian house the following words

"Kakitish"  
 "On the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1875 gave away"  
 "property to the amount of 2000"  
 "Blankets and has taken the place"  
 "of Fat Joe"  
 "Fort Rupert"

The owner is absent, but no doubt on his return he also will show me with some pride this record. I will tell him what I told the other man, namely, that the writing showed me that he was a fool and unmindful of his family, and that he might be sure that the Queen thought as I did.

There cannot be a stronger proof that no attempt has been made to attack the 'Pallatet' than these men approaching me, a highly placed officer of the Govt, without any consciousness that they would be rebuked instead of praised.

I am very sorry to say that it would not have been too much to expect that whether the 'Pallatet' could be killed or not, these Indians, living in an easy accessible place, might at least have been told that the Government regarded the 'Pallatet' as a very bad thing. The elements of Indian administration do not seem yet to have been appreciated or practised in this Province. This is a strong remark but what can I honestly say with the facts that are around me, and hearing the talk of the missionaries who complain that the Govt gives little or no help in their fight against such a soul-corroding system as the 'Pallatet'!

Warning and rebuke from an officer having the great authority of the Govt and acting judiciously but decisively in proportion to his responsibility would have a remarkable effect in discouraging the practice, and by and by when the proper time came, it might be necessary in some cases to lay an iron hand upon the shoulders of the people in some parts of the country, particularly on the coast.

The most hopeful Indian fact in the history of the Province is the spontaneous abolition of or resolution to abolish the 'Pallatet' by the Hekla, Kap. a. m. of the interior.

Its influence

if carried out, will be beneficial and far-reaching by the example it will afford.

The organization of the people, will produce the following effect. A career is opened to the Indians; there are offices among them which men can hope to fill.

and these men having been approved by the Queen will occupy a higher and more coveted position than that which satisfies the ambition of a man who attempts to pass himself off as a Chief in virtue of a Pachtat distribution.

The one will quietly and naturally kill off the other as the rays of the sun kill a small coal fire. Compared with Queen's Chief the Pachtat Chief (under a system condemned moreover by the Queen's officer) would soon be nowhere.

I do not say that all or comparatively many of the tribes in the interior or coast are fit at present for organization for municipal purposes under the Indian Act, but those who are fit should have that privilege granted to them in view of the great advantages likely to follow. Of which in speaking of the effect upon the "Pachtat" I have mentioned only one.

The others should be rebuked, warned and instructed, and gradually trained for responsible management of their own little affairs, not by an officer calling for an hour at a village once in a few years with a gunboat for a conveyance but by an officer living constantly in their midst going from place to place and encamping to get information and to have a talk, appearing unexpectedly at certain resorts, threatening the Pachtat givers, and bending the people to his will for their own good, by mingled instruction, persuasion and firmness.

When I

landed in 1860 on the West coast of Vancouver Island and soon became acquainted with the

coils of the Pachtat, I would not have thought it probable that 19 years later, I should have to write of the "Pachtat" as I should have written in 1860, and that not in out-of-the-way places but within easy reach of Victoria, and after the management of Indian affairs had been for eight years in the charge of the Govt of Canada which spared no reasonable expenditure.

I have written these few lines on the subject of the "Pachtat" as it is a most grave one, brought forcibly to my mind just now by various circumstances, and as it lies, like a huge incubus, upon all philanthropic, administrative or missionary effort for the improvement of the Indians.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

The Hon.

The Sup. Genl.

Indian Affairs

Ottawa

Your obedt Servt.

J. M. Sprunt. Comr.

Indian Res. Commissioner.

British Columbia

Nov 10. 1879

At the request of the Hon. Mr. or Mr. Baker the Indians I write down part of what I said to them on matters outside of land business. I said that the Government was pleased to know that they got on well with the white people, and that they were industrious.

The Queen's mind towards the Indians was the same as towards the white, and she would be glad if the



Indians would do what would make them healthy and happy. They should try to keep themselves and their houses clean, and prevent sickness, especially among the young children, by the use of warm clothing. They should not drink whisky and should take the authorities who bring it among them. Much care should be taken of their young women, so that the young Indian men might have wives, which they cannot have if the young women go to live at Nanaimo, Victoria or New Westminster as prostitutes.

The Queen has no wish to stop the friendly meetings and feasts of the Indians, where they may show goodwill, and talk as white people do at their social gatherings, but she thinks the great fetiches are mischievous in their effects, tending to make the Indians poor and to encourage idleness.

The Govt. does not value a chief who gets his position by purchase, but recognizes the merit of any influential man who tries to make his people obey the law and practice morality and industry.

St. Albert Macdonald  
Esq.

Indian Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>  
Scholar i Toronto  
Koo-wee  
10 Nov 1879

Sir,

I presume that you have been advised from Ottawa that Mr. McKinnis \$15<sup>00</sup> per mo. is to cease, and that he and Captain Koo-wee are to be paid at the same rates as Surveyors in Manitoba and the North West Territory. That is \$5<sup>00</sup> per day - this being an amendment of my general instructions for Surveyors, but I nevertheless think it well to mention the matter to you, not knowing exactly the course of departmental correspondence.

I will write to Ottawa for the list of payments asked for in mine of the 11th Oct. and mentioned in yours of the 28th idem. as I judge you are not able to furnish the same, or you would have enclosed it.

Col. Powell

Ind. Sup<sup>ts</sup> Victoria

I am Sir &c &c  
St. G. M. Sproat Com<sup>r</sup>

Indian Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>  
British Columbia

Koo-wee in camp  
Nanaimo 8 Dec 1879

Sir,

Following my letter of the 14th Sept last, I have to inform you that Mr. McKinnis \$15<sup>00</sup> extra per month is to cease.

and you and he are to be paid at the same rate as the surveyors employed on similar work in Manitoba and the North West Territories. That is \$5<sup>00</sup> per day.

The general instructions enclosed in my letter to you of 6 June last having to be, in this respect, amended, I think the intention probably is that this arrangement will apply from the beginning of your work this season.

I am Sir &c

J. E. M. Sprout Com<sup>r</sup>

Cap. Semmott  
Ind. Res. Survey  
Nicola

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

Schooner Thornton  
Nanaimo 8 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1879

Sir,

Following my letter of the 14 Sept last, I have to inform you that the \$5<sup>00</sup> per month extra which you have been getting is to cease, and that the surveyors in charge of parties in this province under my immediate direction are to be paid at the same rate as the surveyors employed on similar work in Manitoba and the North West Territories. That is \$5<sup>00</sup> per day. Be good enough, accordingly, to act on the general instructions enclosed in mine to you of 6 June last.

I am Sir &c

J. E. M. Sprout Com<sup>r</sup>

E. Graham Esq  
Ind. Res. Survey  
Nicola

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission

Nov. we. to In camp.  
10 Nov 1879

(Alleged confederation of  
Indian tribes on the mainland)

Sir,

The Rev. Mr. Hale who is working as a missionary among the Kootenai Indians, whose affairs I am now examining, informs me that when in Victoria recently, there was some talk in the circles in which he moves, about "Mr. Sprout and the confederation of Indian tribes on the mainland".

It is not necessary for me to offer remarks on <sup>any</sup> silliness that is uttered about Indian affairs, but the above allegation is so broad, and at the same time so unfounded and ~~absurd~~, that I will venture to make a few observations, in case it should come to your ears.

The only confederation which I ever heard of in this Province was the concerted action of the Okanagan and Shuswap Indians, two or three years ago, before what they considered their land rights. An outbreak of these Indian wars, in my judgment, then imminent. It was prevented by the work of the Reserve Commission. Had it occurred the Province would have been ruined for several generations.

Instead therefore of attempting to "confederate" Indian tribes of a large province that fills



the ears of the ignorant and timid, it has been my lot to be an instrument in the breaking up of the only "confederation" of Indians that ever existed in this country.

The value of that action has been somewhat diminished among the Okanagan and Shuswap by what the Provincial Govt. has done, and omitted to do, since the Peace Com<sup>m</sup> passed through their districts, but in a separate letter of this date I enclose a letter to me from the chief Chilikeeta, dated 5 Oct 87, showing his loyalty, notwithstanding difficulties.

This chief is the most influential in the southern interior. When the American Indians were in arms south of the line, they sent special messengers, sometimes twice a week, to Chilikeeta. I do not think it likely that the Okanagan and Shuswap will again "confederate" against white people because the mass of these Indians are reasonably satisfied respecting their lands, though some of the chiefs make rough speeches, but the sale of the Osoyoos Reserve and the action of the Provincial Govt in regard to Indian lands at Similkameen and the head of Okanagan Lake - already fully advised by you - may yet cause very serious trouble and perhaps a local outbreak with bloodshed.

With this in view it is necessary to understand distinctly that neither the Dominion Govt. nor any officer of theirs can be to blame.

The action of the Dominion Govt. has been somewhat entirely, and you will see from Chilikeeta's letter that, even now, after his year of trouble, it is the influence of the Dominion

Government that is invited to prevent a breach of the peace at the head of Okanagan Lake.

One does not like to speak of oneself, but when the profound race prejudice that exists in some quarters here causes indirect attacks to be made it is well that facts should be known.

The foregoing shows that, instead of making a confederation, I broke it up, and afterwards when the Provincial Government by their proceedings reproduced some of the evils of Okanagan which had caused the confederation to spring into life, I have used influence to keep the peace, and am doing so at this time.

So little is known about the Indians by many persons in this province who might be expected to be well informed, that I have thought it desirable to mention the foregoing little piece of history, in relation to anything that may at any time be said on the subject of "confederating" Indians in British Columbia.

I may add that perhaps vague ideas of confederation have been derived from the meeting of the Hekla, Kap. & munks at Lytton (see my letter Nov 6, 1878 - Feb 11, 1879) &c, the critics merely show their ignorance of affairs. Both on a phrasal and in fact, the term "confederation" is quite inapplicable to anything these people have done.

It is a singular statement to make, but I believe that very few, even of the white residents living amongst the Hekla, Kap. & munks, knew that so distinctive

an Indian people existed. They lumped them as "Thompson Indians". Probably not three men in the province could, now, state the limits of the districts they inhabit. They are as distinct a group as the most exclusive Highland Clan in old days in Scotland. They have their own history and language, their own traditions and ways, their own places of resort. They have their own high families. Not only has an attempt been made to confederate the Kikla-kap, a. m. k. with the Okanagan, Shewap, or any other Indian groups, but it would be entirely beyond the power of the Dominion and Prov. Govts. combined, to effect that object if they tried. The people would not be confederated. They are, as they say, Kikla-kap, a. m. k.; they are not Okanagan or Shewap. I believe that, at this time, every one of them wishes to show the Government that the Kikla-kap, a. m. k. will be behind none in following the Queen's mind. That is their humble and sincere desire, and when I say so, I speak of men whom I know thoroughly, and who, though Indians, are my personal friends, whom I am bound to speak for, as they have some difficulty in making their most reasonable views and wishes known through an atmosphere thick with prejudice and injustice.

Nothing is more clear to me, after studying dispassionately, amongst mostly and confused records, the whole history of Indian affairs in this Province since its establishment as a colony, than the just and sincere intentions of Sir James Douglas in carrying out the orders of the English Govt. to treat the Indians reasonably

and humanely, but it is equally clear that he, with all his power as a Crown Colony Governor, was baffled by public sentiment and by his subordinates. His subordinates, no doubt just and enlightened men, but new to the country, and, perhaps, new from the labour of personal investigation, were more at the mercy of their subordinates than Sir James was. In some cases I have ascertained that these subordinates were actuated by selfish interests in their action towards the Indians (see a circular of Sir James Douglas himself) but it is fair to bear in mind that more likely they were indifferent; their other duties were pressing; the Indians showed little disposition to cultivate, and to fort. But be the fact what it may, the Indians, ultimately, being unable to make their wishes known at headquarters, in any way, despaired and "confederated" - to use the last resource open to aggrieved men. This league was broken up, as above described, and now, when the Indians have few friends but the Govt. of Canada, it seems to me that the elements of pressure which baffled Sir James Douglas and others will be brought to bear on that Govt. The Indians are unable to speak for themselves; they are an inarticulate multitude, they have no proper representative but yourself; the Members and Senators whom we send to Ottawa will not pretend that they represent the Indians.

Now, in relation to the subject of this letter, I will turn upon my critics, if such there be, and give a further piece of information. The security of the Province to day, next to the effect of



recent equitable dealings is owing to the fact above mentioned, that the Kiklakapamutts would not "confederate" and could not be "Confederated". Had they joined the League of the Ojibwas & Shawanps several years ago the "Confederation" would have been very formidable while the Indians had a sense of grievance, but they would not do so, though that portion of them inhabiting Nicola Valley were so discontented that they would not ride a few miles to see Lord Dufferin pass up the wagon road.

The Kiklakapamutts do not ask the Govt. to pay them for their right, or assumed right, to the soil, nor do they ask for annuities or presents. They do not demand an unreasonable quantity of land, but such as they can use. They wish to see the white people live among them and thrive.

They desire that at least the "great chief at Ottawa" should have some means of knowing their minds and their action, for as they mean their acts to be good, they wish him to know the fact from time to time.

They have 800 or 900 children among them of school age. This is the fact on which my mind is fixed, for, with the good feeling which actuates the grown up people, what might not the coming generation of these people achieve in the way of satisfactory progress? Are they not to be permitted to cultivate a moderate piece of land in their own country, - to make efforts, at their own cost, principally to improve the physical condition and minds of their children, and to train themselves for

citizenship in a way approved by the Canadian Parliament - merely because gentlemen who do not know the A.B.C. of the question stigmatize them as plotters, and vilify anybody who says a word in their favour?

I hope I do not write with undue warmth, but these people specially expect me to tell you their minds and with that view invited me to Lillooet, and I am under considerable apprehension as to the possibly injurious effects upon these Indians of contact with railway workmen, if the railway is constructed, and wish them to be in a position to defend by their own organization, the action of the Department for their own protection.

I am, Sir & son,  
St. John Spruce Co.  
The Hon.  
The Secy. Gen. of  
Ind. Affairs - Ottawa

Postscript.

I perhaps should have stated that, as regards the Kiklakapamutts people themselves, their proposed organization for school and other purposes creates no new bonds; it merely brings them nearer to the Govt. in certain respects, and tends to train them a little in managing their own affairs. They always have been a distinct people, and have had their meetings and "councils" and their chiefs, and have chiefs though the settlers living amongst them do not seem to have known much about these facts. The practice of marriage

duties, by fostering individual independence, will loosen and weaken those tribal bonds and relations in which some people see danger. I consider the proposed municipal arrangements of the Kiklatapa marks a most hopeful sign and a great security to the Government.

John G. M. C.

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission.

Shushatli Bay  
11 Nov 1879

### Quarter Report of Progress

Sir,

I wrote last on this subject on the 11 Oct when I described my work in general, among the Klat. loose, Shammon and Homalitto tribes, and informed you I was about to proceed further north among the "Laich. Keil lach" commonly called "Eulachons".

Many of these Indians, including the principal chiefs, having been absent at a "Paddat", I could not complete my work amongst them, but I considerably advanced it and examined a portion of their districts.

There are two principal places affording good land such as these people should have a share of, if anything is ever to be made of them, which places are at Campbell River just inside Cape Mudge

and at Salmon River further to the north.

I found that a serious dispute existed at Campbell River between the Indians and a white squatter. The latter said that the Indians had threatened him and the Indians said that the squatter had fired his gun at them.

The squatter told me that he had been several times to Victoria to try to get papers for the land, but being within the Railway Reserve he could not get papers. Here, then, but for the accident of the Railway Reserve, would have been a dispute causing trouble for years to the Department.

At Salmon River the Provincial Govt. made surveys in 1877, and their Surveyor reported to them that the Indians were "all very jealous of our operations."

The whole of Cormorant Island including, as far as I can ascertain, a settlement of the Kiklat Indians, where they still reside, has been leased by the Provincial Govt. to a Mr. Hudson for a long term of years.

The place of the Klat. with six miles of the Kiklat River has been occupied by white men and passed through several hands. This, with other places, was protected by the following agreement, which Sir James Douglas told me are valid legal instruments. They are documents which will govern some questions in this neighbourhood between the Indians and the Hudson Bay Company.



At Kowee still near the shore of the Island of Vancouver a white trader has built several houses within the settlement.

Various applications to purchase lands have also been made lately in the localities now being examined and I accordingly have written a letter on the subject of the Indian requirements in this district to the Chief Comr of Lands as per enclosed copy dated 28 Oct 1879.

The Rev Mr Hall a clergyman connected with the Church Missionary Society, stationed for the present, at Fort Rupert informs me that until the Indians' land questions are settled, he cannot get on satisfactorily with his work, and he says further that during the last two years the Indians have repeatedly asked the Hudson's Bay Co. trader to make their wishes known to the authorities.

This is what any intelligent disinterested person would have supposed and it would not have been worth mentioning, but for the attempt lately made by the Pres. Ex<sup>ts</sup> and others to prevent investigation and adjustment of land questions in this quarter, for reasons which I cannot surmise.

The proposed work of two such powerful and beneficent bodies as the New England Company, and the Church Missionary Society among these perhaps the most morally degraded Indians on the coast, has been practically held back or stopped by the nonadjustment of these land questions.

It is obvious

one would think to common sense that such societies cannot undertake systematic work for the good of the Indians until it is known where the principal locations of the Indians are to be, after an examination of the question in reference to the wishes of the people, and the possibilities of administration or other benevolent effort among them in the future.

I find more questions and difficulties as regards land among these Indians than I myself anticipated, and considerably more difficult here than in the Interior in forming sound opinions respecting the future.

The group of Indians among whom, since leaving the Klak house, Skiamon and Homaluk Indians, I am working may be called the "Kwakiwilt" group - the Kwakiwilt tribe having been generally considered to be the leading tribe among the people.

Their country is from below Cape Mudge up to Smith Sound on the main land and including Quatino Sound on the North West of Vancouver Island.

The tribes which all speak the same language, and number from 2500 to 3000 are as follows -

Quatino including Kookimoo

Kopimoo

Maskimoo

Kahimoo or Koo. we. to

Kwaki. she. lah

Kwak. Kwock. to

Isah. waw. tay. neuch  
Mak. ma. G. L. G. K. Da  
Klah. wit. sis  
Kewkish  
Mak. teelt. pe  
Sa. roch. teuch  
Kwah. Kew. et  
Laich. Kew. laub

The  
Cwekano tribes in Ruin Islet Fitz Hugh Sound are more Polakalla Indians than Kwakiwilt Indians.

The above tribes require special attention for their condition is not satisfactory and I see few signs of progress. They are in the very heart of the Coast Superintendency. The Potlatch custom has a strong hold among them.

They do not seem to realize that the Govt. disapproves of "Potlatching" among them, and that the Govt. will not give them useless presents. Some of them came to me and expecting that I would open boxes of goods and distribute them. That was their idea of a great chief until I undeceived them. When I smoked a pipe with them at their fires, and said in courtesy "Come and see me at my tent" they brought women, thinking I wished them to come for immoral purposes. Some of the tribes are much given to the use of whisky. Nearly all of them send their women to Nanaimo, Victoria, New Westminster, and even Puget Sound for purposes of prostitution. Cannibalism is not extinct.



Having now worked up from Victoria to the extreme north of Vancouver Island examining carefully the requirements and condition of the Indians, my experience in this ~~the~~ the West-Indian Superintendency strikingly confirms the opinion expressed last year in Mr. Van Koughnets report that the present system has not produced the hoped for results.

Things are no better here than  
on the mainland, and this I say without  
meaning any unkind criticism.

As the <sup>Mayor</sup> Lupton sits most of his time in New York, and occasionally goes up the river or road in a public conveyance, and hurries back to his office again; so is it in the case of the Lupton at Victoria.

What possible good effect can any one produce, remaining year after year in Victoria, and then going round the Coast in a gunboat, at intervals of years, to make a speech, during a hurried visit, and distribute a few presents?

The mere residence of an Agent in Victoria is a bad thing for it is a good excuse for Indians going thither from distant places. There are no Indians at Victoria that need special attention. Here along the Gulf of Georgia and especially among the Kwakwaka'wakw people north of Cape Mudge, becoming more degraded yearly, is where an Agent should have been working in a canoe from village to village for several years past, sitting at the fire places of the people, reasoning with them, explaining to them the evils of the Pot, and

drawing out of them whatever of good there is in them. As it is they do not seem instructed in anything, and work for their good will be doubly difficult, for, practically, except for mild protests offered at long intervals, the Superintendents of the Department must have the effect of to some extent sanctioning in the minds of the Indians things which it will be necessary to condemn if any attempt to improve the Indians is ever made.

It is a most grave matter that several thousands of Indians, belonging to a class with proved capabilities of improvement, should be permitted to sink almost irrecoverably without any attempt being made to save them. If Dr. Powell had been among them in his canoe or schooner for 7 or 8 months during each of the last 4 or 5 years, what great good might not have been effected in every respect, but more particularly as regards whiskey-drinking, <sup>committing them</sup> "Pallatizing", and wholesale prostitution? There has been nothing of a practical nature attempted that I can hear of in regard to any of these evils. All of them are growing, and growing freely under the eyes of the Government except where missionaries have checked their growth. They can be rooted out every one of them. In view of Dr. Powell's profession also, I cannot help asking what great good might not have been done in improving the physical, as well as the moral health of the people?

The arrangement at present with respect to medical matters is, so far as I can ascertain, as follows.

No

Superintendent, residing at Victoria, which is at the extreme end of over 500 miles of coast, gives medical advice, and aid to any Indian who is able to go to his office. This cannot be a convenient arrangement for sick people, and their conveyance is an excuse for others going to Victoria. Many poor creatures, of course, do go to Victoria, but it must be a considerable tax on their means, and on what strength that may remain to them to undertake such a journey and to remain for any time at Victoria, or away from home. I find sick or injured Indians in almost every village. The children seem to die off.

If the Superintendent does not itinerate, there is of course no other course open to these Indians needing medical aid than to go to him, and I doubt not every attention is paid to them.

The other part of the medical arrangements seem to be that Dr Powell sends an assortment of medicines to the missionaries and to others, who will likely, or so know how, undertake to dispense them.

I mention these matters not in any way to criticise Dr Powell, but to show the result of my experience in working along the coast, so far, in his Superintendency. The arrangements do not seem to be suited to the circumstances, and this is a fact which can be appreciated without necessarily involving individual criticism.

Whether all the circumstances forbade useful action among these Indians, or whether a man of energy and ability

could have done more than has been done, are not questions with which I am concerned, nor of which I have the means of judging at present with much precision, but I wish something more had been attempted in the portion of the Coast Superintendency, for the reasons I have stated.

In the other portion nearer Victoria, on both sides of the Gulf of Georgia, where reserves were laid off 3 years ago by the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup>, I have been surprised lately to find that the action of the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> has not been followed up by suitable efforts to make the Indians cultivate their lands. If the nearest reserve to Victoria is taken first, and an inquiry made successively to more distant ones, this remark will hold good. The Provincial Gov<sup>t</sup> will point and are pointing to such Reserves, and may say that they are too large, though really they are small. The Indians should be visited and urged and warned, and in short should be compelled to use the lands, and it should be subdivided and then the industries would get their reward, and large ones who roamed about 'Pollatching' would be known. It is an answer in most of these cases to say that nothing could be done until the Reserves were surveyed and conveyed. There has been abundance of work in reserves near Victoria easily accessible without much cost. Old reserves simply confirmed or moderately extended by the Com<sup>rs</sup> in surveyed districts, and the boundaries of which would well be known.

I am directly concerned in complaining of this inaction



having committed myself to the decision that these reserves were suitable. If the Indians are not made to use them (and I know this merely requires energy and judgment) the Prov. Gov. will say that the reserves are unsuitable.

I mention these matters because my decisions as Reserve Com<sup>r</sup> are based, and are being based, in part, on a reasonable view and hope of the requirements of the Indians when not left entirely to themselves. It is necessary that I should I must look a little into the future, and assume that the Indians will be encouraged in a wholesome way, and also directed, in working towards a better condition than they now are in. (See paragraph below.)

I am Sir &c

J. M. Sproul Com.

P.S. I enclose copy of my letter of this date to Dr. Purcell on some of the foregoing subjects, so that you may have placed before you the other side of the question, if there is any other side.

Yours truly  
J. M. Sproul

The Hon  
The Secy. Genl.  
Indian Affairs, Ottawa

I beg to enclose copy of my letter of this date to Dr. Purcell on some of the foregoing subjects, which coming under my observation cannot from their gravity, be passed unnoticed, so that you may have placed before you by that gentleman the other side of the question, if there is any other side.  
For Postscript see Page 90.

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

Schooner "Thornton"  
Alert Bay  
11 Nov 1879

Sir,

The work which I am carrying on as Reserve Com<sup>r</sup>, though directly connected with land, involves of necessity some general examination and consideration of Indian affairs, inasmuch as my decisions must be based, in part, on a reasonable view of the requirements of the situation, and of the Indians themselves, when their affairs are well administered.

The experience of the Commission in a part of the Coast Superintendency in 1876 & 1877 suggested various things to my mind, but I required the additional and ample experience which I since have had to enable me to form reasonable opinions with respect to many matters, which occupied my thoughts, notwithstanding my absence in the Fraser Superintendency.

I am known the requirements and condition of the Indians from the Strait of Vancouver to land to its extreme north, including the mainland coast up to Cape Caution, and my opinion in the same or that expressed by Mr. Van Koughnet in his official report last year, to the effect that in the Coast Superintendency, as in the Fraser Superintendency, the arrangements are not suited to the circumstances.

This statement may be made without unkind

criticism, but it is a most grave matter that the condition of so many Indians with easy access of Victoria and in the heart of the Coast Superintendency should be in the unsatisfactory condition in which they are, and which is worse than any group of Indians which came under my examination in the Interior of the Province.

Having formed this opinion I think it is the kindest and frankest way to mention it to you, so that you may if you think fit, put the Super Gen. in possession of any contrary or other views which you may yourself have formed, if you have formed any such respecting the matters in question.

The selection of Victoria as a place of residence for the Superintendent of the Coast Division is unfortunate, for there are no Indians at Victoria who need special attention and the residence of the Superintendent there draws Indians thither on visits from distant places.

An Agent should not be permanently anywhere, but should be always on the move. The last place at which he should be stationed is Victoria, which is near one end of a Coast strip, forming an Indian Superintendency, more than 500 miles in length on an air line.

This fact also makes Victoria a very inconvenient place from which to dispense medical aid.

Many poor creations of course do go to Victoria for medical help, but it must be a considerable tax on their Indians and on what strength remains to them to undertake such a journey and to remain for any time at

Victoria, or away from home. I find sick or injured Indians in almost every village.

Victoria of course should, with other places, be embraced within the attention of a Superintendent, but the principal field of work, so far as my observation enables me to judge, should have been on both sides of the Gulf of Georgia, and in particular among the Kwakwaka'wakw people north from Cape Mudge.

If instead of residing in Victoria the arrangement had been that you had sailed by schooner or canoe among these Indians, who are in the very heart of the Superintendency, for 7 or 8 months of every year for several years past, it is probable that great good would have resulted, as regards the moral and physical health of the people - particularly the last named, who are the most indolent and morally degraded in the Province.

I do not find that any practical remedy has been applied to such great evils as the custom of the "Potlatch" whisky drinking, or the practice of prostitution, which latter is closely connected with the first-named evils. So far as I can ascertain, all these evils are as ripe now, as when Canada took charge of the Indians. If they are not so obvious it is because many of the tribes have largely diminished in number. I think the "Potlatch" is increasing. Cannibalism is not extinct. The people know that the Govt. disapproves of drinking, but the other evils have not been brought home to their appreciation. I know that you have mentioned them in speeches during the short and rare visits



which you have been able to pay to the principal villages, but no effect has been produced, and indeed none could be expected from a mere expression of opinion on a formal occasion, not followed up by continued or often repeated intercourse, such as would have been secured under the itinerant management above mentioned.

If the present condition of the mass of these Indians in the Coast Superintendency is to be acquiesced in as unimprovable, it would follow that there is no need for any administrative machinery whatever, the people being left to their fate. But such acquiescence would not be humane or just, and in my judgment, based on proved experience on parts of the Coast, is quite unnecessary.

The arrangements, at present, for bringing the weight of Governmental authority and influence, within a proper sphere, to bear on means for improving these people are, as above stated, unsuitable to the circumstances.

I have been surprised to find that the people generally have no active idea of what the mind of the government is; with reference to what is essential for the improvement of their condition. They roam about to Pachtuck and work their property in distribution, and yet expect, and, I am told, have received presents from the Government.

I do not think that the visits of an Officer of the Department should be made in a gunboat. Such visits must necessarily be too hurried and formal to produce any effect, and, moreover, I submit

for consideration whether a practice which exhibits constantly and almost solely the idea of force to the Indian mind is one with which the Canadian Govt. would wish to be associated. It is an old fashion I know, but a bad one. On the same principle, an officer visiting the interior should have a troop of cavalry with him.

Those, mentioned without detail, are a few of many matters which necessarily have come under my observation, and working, as I now am, in the heart of the Coast Superintendency, seeing what ~~it~~ is, and reflecting on what might have been, I cannot refrain from naming them to you.

There is another matter to which I wish to call attention, with which I have direct official concern. It is a long time since the reserves from Victoria up both sides of the Gulf of Georgia were passed by the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup>, and I have been told, and I may say have observed, at least in places I have lately visited, that things have gone on as before, no suitable effort having been made to induce or compel the Indians to cultivate their lands. The settlers at Saanich and other places, easily and at small cost accessible, complain of this and the Provincial Govt. will point to it. Most of these are old reserves in already surveyed districts and the boundaries were known sufficiently soon before Mr Green's Survey.

I have committed myself by the decisions of the Com<sup>rs</sup> to the affirmation that these Reserves were suitable, and they are so, but I did not anticipate that the

Indians were to be left to themselves.

I had to look a little into the future, and to assume that the Indians would be encouraged in a wholesome way, and also directed, if necessary, with an officious impulse.

In conclusion, I may mention to you, as I am at present working in the Coast Survey, that an attempt was made by the Prov. Gov. to induce the Sup. Gen. to prevent my examining this year the portion of the Survey now occupying my attention.

After giving this act the fullest consideration, and examining it from all points of view, I am unable to understand it on any public or suitable grounds, and I therefore beg to ask you to be good enough to give me your idea of what the Prov. Gov. could mean by taking such steps as regards a portion of the Province in which the Indians have not had an acre formally reserved to them, where the necessity for adjusting land matters is in proportion to the scantiness of the good places and the numbers of the people, and where as I have found, there are questions between the Indians in many places and white squatters, or applicants to purchase (not to mention Hudson Bay Co questions) which but for the railway reserve over a portion of the district, would have been, as some may still be, very troublesome.

The representative of the New England Co. has given up the idea of working among the Kutchik River at present, as until the lands of the Indians are known he could not

recommend a location, and the Church Missionary Society is in the same position.

I have not been in any part of the Province where, under all the circumstances, an adjustment of land matters was more necessary, and this reconciles me to the severity of the work in canoes during stormy and wet weather, but at the same time it makes more inexplicable the above act of which I have not obtained any official explanation from the Prov. Gov. and probably will not do so until I reach Victoria again.

I am Sir, &c.  
J. H. Powell  
Indian Surveyor  
Victoria } For Perusal. See Page 80, 89.

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Com. &c.

In camp Koo, we to  
10 Nov 1878

Okefen's case again  
& Okanagan Lake.

Sir,

In reference to this old dispute, more particularly explained in my letter of 10 March last and which was the subject of a letter from the Indian Chief "William" enclosed in mine to you of 26 April last, I beg to enclose now a letter of continued complaint just received from Chelikeetee, who may be regarded as the principal Indian Chief in the southern interior of the Province.



I hardly know what to do in this matter for, as stated in my above letter of 26 April, I feel that in continuing to assure these Kenyan Indians that the matter which they complain of is receiving effective attention I am stating what is probably not quite true "so far as the Provincial Govt is concerned."

I have not been able to bring myself to a repetition of that statement in reply to Chilikeeta's letter.

Yours Sir &c  
 The Hon. Secy. of Indian Affairs Ottawa

(Postscript to Dr Powell's letter of 11 Nov 1879  
 See Page 82)

Mr. George Hunt, son of the gentleman in charge of the Hudson Bay Co. fort at Beaver Harbour tells me that cannibalism, by which he does not mean the biting of flesh from the arms and legs, but the devouring of entire bodies is practised by the Stah. waw. tay. neech, the Mah. ma. lillo. Kulla and the Nah. Kwock. ti tribes, the two former being the largest and strongest of the whole group of Kwah. Kew. llo. tribes. He thinks that the authority of the Government could probably have stopped this long ago.

Int. G. M. S.

Postscript to Superintendent General, letter of 11 Nov 1879 See Page 71.

The Cannibalism mentioned at Page 85, and in my letter to Dr. Powell, was described to me by Mr. Geo. Hunt, a half breed trader of the Hudson Bay Co. who knows more about the Kwah. Kew. llo. tribes in modern days than any other white man. That it existed formerly is well known. Mr. Blankenship of the Reserve Commission when an officer in the Co. service has seen an Indian killed and eaten at St. Rupert, but he thought the horrid practice had been entirely abandoned.

Mr. Hunt says that dead bodies have been eaten last year and for several years back, to his knowledge, for he saw the act on one occasion, by one or other of the tribes of the Kwah. Kew. llo. group known as the Stah. waw. tay. neech, the Mah. ma. lillo. Kulla and the Nah. Kwock. ti, the two first named being the largest and strongest tribes of the whole Kwah. Kew. llo. group. He does not think that persons were killed to be eaten, but of course he cannot be certain of this. Those he saw eaten were supposed to have died natural deaths. They were not merely bitten at, but eaten and the bones flung to women to be picked.

The flesh, as he expressed it was allowed to become 'doy' before it was eaten. The bodies were, he understood, those of relatives of the persons who ate them, and so far as he knows, the idea was that Indians who were sick, or inclined to be sick benefited in their health by eating their relatives. Mr. Geo. Hunt is the son

of Mr R. Hunt who is in charge of the Hudson Bay Co Fort at Fort Rupert. He trades in a small schooner among the tribes in the service of the Company, and I believe that his statement is unexaggerated and correct. Some of the people, yielding to natural feelings of horror, have asked him to use his influence against the practice.

He thinks that the Government should, and could, have stopped it long ago, but nothing has been done. The officers of the Govt have visited some of the above important tribes.

There was a general visit to the district in 1874 and another in 1879, but very hurried visits were paid and the beaten track of navigation kept.

There are during the whole summer steamboats passing about every fortnight within six and twelve miles of the head quarters villages of these two main tribes, and the place is two days from Victoria. The navigation is good for canoes, at least I am attempting it in winter.

These matters are not under my care, nor perhaps within my province. but I cannot help mentioning them to illustrate the defects of existing arrangements, and because when missionaries and others get hold of these facts, they are not unlikely to formulate them into charges of maladministration which could not easily be met or explained.

Sir E. M. S.

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

In camp Rouer Harbor  
16 Nov 1879

Sir

(Intrusions on Pastoral Lands)

In giving my opinion, in letter 26 July last respecting the duties of a sub-agent in the interior, I mentioned among others

"very urgently, as winter approaches, the  
"protection of the Indian winter ranges  
"selected by me after much labour and  
"cost, get damaged almost, in some  
"cases, beyond recovery since my assignment  
"of the lands. Last winter thousands  
"of cattle were driven upon some Indian  
"ranges. One or two I have seen this  
"summer, and hardly recognise them"

The winter again approaches, and I have no doubt the above intrusion will be again repeated shortly, and these pastoral reserves will be completely ruined.

It does not seem to be desirable that the Dominion Govt should have gone to expense in selecting pastoral lands for the Indians & further, in surveying them, and that when conveyed from the Prov. Govt, the lands, originally good for the intended purpose, should be, as many will be, quite spoiled.

The Indians will be dissatisfied, and the work will have to be done over again, but I can



assure you, it is a very difficult matter to find pastoral areas, as may be supposed, after the white settlers have had the free run of them for 20 years, wasting one and then going to another.

Owing to the different nature of the country in the east of Canada, perhaps it is not realized at Ottawa that here the fine natural pastures known as "bush grass" disappear entirely if overgrazed and the "sage" then comes up.

Some of the settlers drive large bands upon the Indian lands, and the Indians stand helplessly looking on. Their objections are not heeded.

If the Indian goes to a Local Justice of the Peace, probably the latter has a copy of the Indian Act, knows nothing of the position of the Indians or their lands, and in most cases he himself is a cattle owner. Practically there is no redress.

I respectfully express the opinion that it would save much trouble in future, were some steps taken by the Hon. Gov. to advise persons here to appreciate the fact that it is possible for Indians to have some right to land.

This idea was never strong in British Columbia, and the acts of the Prov. Gov. in selling Indian lands, previously with their own formal consent, assigned to the Prov. Gov. for Indians, have further weakened it.

These intrusions on Indian lands in winter have the same effect, and I could give many proofs that an undoubted state of anarchy exists.

Following

the established practice, of the Gov. to exhaust every effort before disturbing any existing interest. Last summer, permitted a Chinaman, who had no license or papers, to continue his mining on an Indian settlement at Cameron Bar on the distinct understanding, however, that he was not to touch a piece which the Indians wished to cultivate. I gave him a map, and there could be no mistake. Scarcely was my back turned, as I have since been informed by a letter, that the Chinaman with 30 or 40 others began to work on the said piece. The ground will be suited for agriculture. The Chinaman, though without rights there, thus heard the Gov. The Indians go to a local justice, but nothing is done. They write to me. I have no control, nor jurisdiction. They write to Mr. Lemihaw, he has no knowledge of the locality nor the facts. The land is doubly Dominion land, for not only is it Indian land, but it is within the Railway Reserve.

Another case may be mentioned which came to my notice on my way down from Lytton. An Indian couple had a small garden patch by the roadside. his only means of living. A man driving cattle down the road tore his fence down and put his cattle in for the night. The Indian was buried - there was no redress.

What seems to me to be required is some action to prove that in law and in fact, an Indian has as much right to his property as a white man and that his land must not be taken and used at any body's will.

The miner is here for a few years only. Some of the cattle owners say "give me three or four years more grazing on the public lands. I ask no more" meaning that he will have made enough, and what the effect is on the lands he does not care.

But the Indian is the real inhabitant of the country; he always will be here; and that he should have a reasonable area of land for his requirements and be protected therein must be an object of solicitude to the Dominion Govt.

These few remarks have additional force in view of railway construction and the eagerness with which cattle farmers and drovers will carry on their business if construction begins.

The Indian will be pushed on one side, and their lands intruded on at will, unless some steps are taken immediately to ensure fair play.

The existing machinery in the interior consisting of local justices not as a rule well informed, and confused in their minds as regards Indian affairs, does not work well. The Indian generally complains of the administration of the law by the justices.

Imagine that you will consider it desirable, however, to exhaust every means of utilizing the ordinary tribunals of the Province, before giving judicial power to an Agent of your own, as permitted by the Indian Act.

This might have to be done, but, in the meantime probably some

improvements might be effected by the influence of a judicious travelling agent, under proper instructions, who might watch Indian cases in the Justice Courts.

In conclusion I express a hope that my letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> May last commenting on an "Act to protect winter stock Ranges" passed by the Provincial Assembly, will receive consideration in due time, as also the sale of Indian lands by the Prov. Govt.

The capabilities of the Indians in this Province generally are so hopeful, and they are so amenable to good influences after their land grievances are redressed, that it is a pity to permit open questions to mar the progress which I hope the Govt. will soon see established. This must be my excuse for occasionally recurring to subjects already mentioned in former separate letters.

I am Sir &c

J. G. M. Sprunt. Com<sup>r</sup>

The Hon<sup>r</sup>  
The Secy. Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Indian Affairs Ottawa

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

Sch<sup>r</sup>. Thornton  
Rough Bay 21 Nov 1879

Sir,  
I beg to enclose copies of my letter of 11 Oct last to Dr. Powell who is acting as Paymaster for the surveys and of that gentleman's reply of the 28<sup>th</sup> idem.



shall be glad if you will advise me to be furnished from Ottawa with the required information, as I infer from Mr. Powell's letter that he cannot give it, and in its absence I cannot examine and report to you on the season's survey work.

I am Sir &c &c  
J. M. Sprat Comr

The Hon.  
The Sup. Genl. of  
Ind. Affairs Ottawa

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

Sgt. Thornton  
Rough Bay 21 Nov 1877

Sir,  
Stationery,

As the stationery that was sent for the use of the Comr 27 May 1878, will not last much longer, I beg to enclose a list of further requirements, which it will be economical to have sent from Ottawa as stationery is expensive here.

I am Sir &c &c  
J. M. Sprat Comr

The Honourable  
The Sup. Genl. of  
Ind. Affairs  
Ottawa

Copy  
British Columbia  
Ind. Stationery (Estimated for 12 months)  
for use of the Indian Res. Commission.

- 3/4 Reams of cap plain
  - 2 " do ruled
  - 3/4 " La 800 Cream note,
  - 2 Ds Blotting Lilac.
  - 1 " medium Cardstock
  - 1 " strong brown wrapping
  - 2 of cap Letter Books 10x15x2, about 120 pages.
  - 24 plain Men: D 4x6x7/8
  - 250 Envelopes Lar size
  - 500 " " " " " " " " " " " "
  - 1500 " " " " " " " " " " " "
  - 1 doz Blk Lead Pencils
  - 3 boxes Steel Pens
  - 1/2 lb red Soaking Wax
  - 6 Pcs Red Tapes
  - 4 boxes Elastic Bands Lar size
  - 4 " " " " " " " " " " " "
  - 4 " " " " " " " " " " " "
  - 100 Envelopes, linen faced, Lar & Mid.
- 21 Nov 1877 J. M. Sprat Comr

This size will be found suitable for use of the Comr

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

Sgt. Thornton  
Rough Bay 22 Nov 1877

Sir,  
It must be left to yourself to decide in reference to the ending of the season's work of your party in the field. You will of course not continue work, if the weather becomes so broken, as to disable the party.

from giving the Government a fair return for the expenditure.

I refer you to your general instructions as to what has to be done with Govt property remaining. It will have to be well cared for. Looking to probable future work, I do not think it matters much where it is stored. Probably anywhere from Spencer's Bridge to Gale will be found suitable as regards locality. The place and terms you must yourself decide upon.

It is unnecessary to say that the pay of your party will cease on bringing them in from the field. Your own clerical and account work it is expected will be well up and in such time that a personal visit to Dr. Powell, who acts as Paymaster, will not be necessary as last year, for the adjustment of accounts.

It would seem reasonable that a few days on pay after a surveyor's arrival at his home should be allowed for the arrangement of his papers and accounts, but this must be limited and is not to be construed as weakening the general instruction that everything is to be well closed up during the progress of the work.

As soon as the requirements mentioned in your general instructions are complied with and you put me in possession of all necessary Reports documents and accounts or copies of accounts, I will examine and pass them, if correct, without loss of time.

You should see that they are posted, addressed to me Victoria, and they will reach me in the Commission bag, which is regularly sent to me.

Yours faithfully

John P. S. M.   
 Similar letter sent to E. M. H. M. C. B.

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission.

In camp, Salmon River.

24 Nov 1879

(Summary of Year's work)

Sir

I may at this time summarise what the Commission has been doing during the year, to save you the trouble of referring to numerous separate letters.

The first work during the year was in Malaspina Strait among the Coast Indians known as the Shiammons, who sent me urgent messages relative to the sale of land close to their principal village. I prosecuted work among these Indians until the steamer "Leonora" which was my chief conveyance, was driven on shore, and so damaged as to be unable to proceed further, which indeed would not have been much longer possible in that part of the country, owing to the snowfall.

I returned to the Fraser River, and undertook such of the long promised work as was possible at that season among the Lower Fraser Indians who had been passed over for two years by the Govt. owing to the pressing nature of the land question in the interior.

After an interval in the early spring occupied in office work connected with houses and survey records & maps required for the two Govts, I started in April to carry on and complete the adjustment of land questions between Sal and the mouth of the Fraser, commencing the work above Gale with the lowest village of the Kikla, Kof. a market



Spring, which people had been dealt with during the previous year.

The Lower Fraser Indians inhabit what is known as the New Westminster District, a comparatively populous and very important district. There are many tribes, and Iantic, Salish, and indeed experienced, great difficulty in finding means of adjusting Indian land questions in several localities. Some of the reserves were unsuitable and the good land near them had naturally been taken up by settlers.

The season was wet and the mosquitoes were there they had been for many years, so that the work was of the most severe description.

It was necessary, however, to carry it through, as great inconvenience to both Indians and whites was caused by the long delay in examining the district.

I exhausted every effort to provide reasonably for the Indians, without unnecessarily disturbing white settlers, even though they had merely squatted since the railway service was put on.

I think I may say that the intelligent settlers appreciate the difficulties which work in this district presented.

In two or three places the mosquitoes fairly drove the Indians and ourselves away, and in other places the water was so high as to cover the land which the Indians wished me to look at. With these unimportant exceptions, however, and a place not yet visited close to the American boundary, the whole Indian question in the New West. District <sup>which</sup> has been examined, and the work, as above said, connected above with what was done during the previous season.

This enables it to be said that the Indian land

question has now been examined, and as far as might be, adjusted along the whole proposed railway line from the salt water to 50 miles up the North Thompson from Kamloops.

Having to resume work on the Coast after finishing the New Westminster district I made the necessary preparations, adapting the means of transport afforded by a schooner, and, mainly, canoes, in preference to the former means, namely, a steamboat. I find that I do not lose time by not having a steam boat such as the 'Lemora' (formerly employed by the Com<sup>rs</sup>) as her supplies of fresh water and wood needed constant replenishing, and she could not force her way as the schooner can make progress in. A larger steamer would double the cost of transport now being incurred, so that the present plan appears to be most suitable, though canoe travelling and camping in wet, stormy weather involves discomfort.

The work can be carried on outside, as long as there is little or no snow on the ground.

Between the time of leaving the New West. District and resuming work in the Malaspina Strait district, on the coast, above mentioned, namely in July, I attended the interesting meeting of the Ketchikanuck Indians at Lytton, having first invited the Ch. Com. of Land & Works to accompany me.

The Indians much wished white settlers and particularly white chiefs to be present at their meeting, so that they might see how the Indians could do business.

On resuming work in Malaspina Strait on the coast

I found the Maklawa and Homalthe tribes waiting for me with the Shiamon tribe, and all very anxious with respect to their land adjustment.

The particulars, so far, of my work among these Indians are described in my letter of the 11 Oct; and in another letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> of this month. I have given an account of the latter progress of the Commission among the Kwakwaka'wakw people therein also described. I am working among these people at the present time. The labours of the Commission are much needed on this portion of the coast, and progress will, be duly advised.

The two surveyors Mr E. Moberg and Capt. J. Moberg employed in surveying Indian reserves in this province, under my immediate direction, have been working throughout the season in the extensive and important valley of Kootenai. Capt. J. Moberg has surveyed also the reserves for the Kootenai Indians on Thompson River. Every effort has been made to reduce expenditures in connection with these surveys.

In conclusion I have the pleasure to inform you that as a result of arrangements which I think, judging from experience, will be feasible, I hope to be able to advise the possibility, in the spring, of considerably reducing the cost of the Reserve Commission so long as it is working on the Coast. Thus continuing the efforts in the direction of economy, which in conformity with your instructions, have engaged my attention as regards the work of the Commission and the surveys, since these came under my personal management.

It is not necessary in this summary, to advert to the several very grave subjects on which, as they came before me, I have from time to time made observations for the information of the Department.

I am Sir &c &c  
S. Pankoughast Esq., St. J. M. Sprat Com.  
Dep. Sup. Gen. of  
Indian Affairs. Ottawa. Canada

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission

In Camp. Solomon River  
26 Nov 1879

Discontent of Indians  
at Williams Lake.

Sir

In reference to the above subject which was mentioned in my letter of per margin and their enclosures, I now annex a clipping from a Victoria newspaper the "Colonist" dated the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month containing a letter from W. D. Dean - the chief of the Williams Lake Indians stating that the Indians are worried by the neglect of the Govt. as regards their land claims, and that there is sure to be trouble soon, unless their claims are satisfied.

I am disposed that there has not been an outbreak by these Indians sooner, but on a review of the facts, I do not think that the Dominion Govt. can be blamed in any degree if such an unfortunate circumstance should take place.



The case is perfectly well known in this country, and has <sup>been</sup> repeatedly brought by me to the notice of the Provincial Govt, though I have not had an opportunity of examining the locality.

It is the case of a tribe or band of Indians to whom no land whatsoever has been assigned. On the contrary the land and the water for irrigating it, in the place which the Indians say is their old place, have been long ago permitted to be acquired by a white settler, and it has been told that there either is no other available land or no other available land that can be irrigated in the particular locality.

The Dominion Govt. has not done this a legal wrong; it has been done by the Govt of British Columbia, and that Govt. should afford redress.

I have ventured to recommend that the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> should not visit Williams Lake, because the effect would be that probably nothing new would be discovered, and in the case of an outbreak, the public might entangle the Dom<sup>in</sup> Govt with some imaginary responsibility which would not properly be theirs. The facts should be allowed to stand out clear, and each Govt. should take what responsibility belongs to it.

At the same time viewing the pitiable cases of these poor people being, as they think, reluctantly forced to break the peace, it would not be your desire that anything should be omitted which, under the circumstances, could reasonably be done by any officer of the Canadian Govt. to hasten an adjustment, and avert what might be more extensively calamitous in its effects than

some persons suppose.

I think that everything has been done which a humane Govt. would be expected to undertake. The Dom<sup>in</sup> Govt. have, in effect, said to the Prov. Govt. "Suggest any way in which we can help you in this matter, lay down some rules for furthering the adjustment desired. This case is only one of others (examined and re-examined by the Commission) belonging to a class quite understood, in which you have neglected to act, though action was your duty, and in regard to which the Indians may become confused and connect us the Dominion Govt. with injustice. Tell us what you will do about the water question, on the land question at Williams Lake and other places and we will meet you halfway though the responsibility is entirely your own, - but do not, looking to the facts connected with other portions of this Indian adjustment, endeavour to force us to come under a barren expenditure in reference to this case, which would be entailed on us by the necessity of repeated visits to one locality; and, moreover, do not expect that we will permit ourselves to be associated in the Indian minds with the injustice of which they complain at the hands of the Govt. of British Columbia."

"State what you will do at Williams Lake. Will you go with the Com<sup>rs</sup> and examine with him, and agree as a Govt. to some action towards adjustment by compromise or compensation by the Govt. if necessary, to the white settler who, it is said, has been permitted to acquire land and water to the

"detriment of the Indians."

"Will you do anything, and, if so,  
what will you do?"

I am sorry to have to say, that so far as it goes, the Prov. Gov. have not in any way responded to these reasonable proposals. They have ignored the facts and all argument respecting the facts, and have simply said: "We want the Reserve Commission to keep on working in the Interior."

The explanation, of course, is, that in this, and some other cases, it would be necessary to compensate the white settler, who perhaps by no fault of his own, has been so unfortunate as to be the instrument of wrongdoing to the Indians, and this compensation would have to be the subject of a vote in the Provincial Assembly, which, owing to the state of feeling in this country with respect to Indians, would not pass.

The question whether a moderate vote, or the repression of an Indian outbreak would involve most expensiveness, seems to be a question entirely for the Provincial Govt., as I imagine that public sentiment in Canada would not support any policy of harshness by Canadian forces against Indians, who have neither land nor water assigned to them after the colony has been established for 20 years, and who say that their old place has been sold to a white man.

A dispatch was addressed to me on this subject generally, which I communicated to the Prov. Govt. It might be well to keep the Canadian view of these matters very clearly before that Govt.

The Right Hon.  
The Secy. Genl. Ind. Affairs  
Ottawa

I am Sir, &c.  
J. M. Sprunt Comr.

Robert Leckie,  
Indian Reserve Commissioner.

In Camp, Salmon River,  
26 Nov 1877.

Private,

Sir,

(Things in general)

Adverting to my letter of this date, with a newspaper clipping as to the discontent of the Indians at Williams Lake, I think I am correct in stating that the Hon. Gov. cannot be in blame, whatever happens.

The only question that might be asked is whether the Hon. Gov. have not been more goodnatured than the case required, in not pressing the Prov. Govt. in regard to certain matters? I do not of course know what may have been done, but it seems to me most necessary that decided action should be taken in the matter of the sale of Indian lands by the Prov. Govt. - otherwise the Indians will blame the Govt. of Canada for acquiescence.

I am placed awkwardly by some of these proceedings, it must uphold the character of both Govts. in the eyes of the Indians, but after the long delays in regard to open questions, I hardly know what to say to intelligent, acute Indians who, in giving me their confidence, naturally expect to be fairly dealt with in return.

Is it entirely realized at Ottawa what such a case, for instance, as the sale of the Osoyoos Indian lands amounts to?



The two Govts, at heavy cost, and in the most formal manner, through their respective fully empowered representatives, visit Esquimaux, explain all matters to the Indians and assign lands for their use on the spot. (see my Report of April 1879).

There is no question of respect to anybody or approval by anybody. The essence of the work of the Govts is decision on the spot.

A considerable time afterwards the Provincial Govt sold a large portion of the land to Mr. Haynes & pocketed the money.

The Indians send me messages, and I have done what I could to calm them, but time passes, and it is not difficult to imagine, with what feeling the Indians must regard the Government. They consider that they have been played with, and will soon be ripe, again, for anything that may happen, whereas very satisfactory relations had been established between them and the Government.

The people concerned are Okanagan. The same group of Indians as those who have disputes at the head of Okanagan Lake - namely the Okeechewan, and the new question which the Prov. Govt have raised. (see mine of 11 Oct 1879.) But for the friendly relations established with the Chief Chilikeotse, these Okanagan Indians would have probably taken matters into their own hands.

I send herewith a rough map, showing the districts of the Okanagan, the Shuswap and the Kikla Kapa mts.

The Shuswap so far as their land affairs have been adjusted

have little to complain of, but the Williams Lake affair would have their active sympathy.

It is by looking at the country as a whole in relation to the groups of Indians, that one understands the mischief of these proceedings which worry and excite the Indians.

Among the Kikla Kapa mts there are questions both as to land and water - particularly the very bad case of the Chinaman's intrusion at Spatsun (see Sept 18 minute meeting in mine of 18 August 1878), but these Indians are generally well disposed and continue to trust that the Govt of Canada will enforce an adjustment of these open questions.

If the Sup. Govt approve the Municipal Organisation of the Kikla Kapa mts, it will be a great security to the Province, under any circumstances.

I do not mention Indian groups further to the north in the Interior for I have not worked yet amongst them.

Among the people mentioned, whom I have visited and know, it would be well, that no open land questions should exist, and now that it is perfectly certain that the Prov. Govt will give no help, but on the contrary add from time to time to the number of these questions.

I respectfully suggest that it might be well for the Hon. Govt to do what may be found necessary.

One of the most singular experiences I have had in this occupation is the absolute impossibility of getting any information about the Indians

The map herewith sent shows remarkably the position of the Indians & necessarily influential portion of the population

from white people living in their midst, and this is a fact which should be known to the Dept. so that mistakes may be avoided).

If any one professes to know anything of any group of Indians in this country, and to have views on any matter connected with them, he might be asked to make his statement in detail in writing, and then it could be examined. It would not be surprising if persons knew little of so old and complex a subject as the Indian affairs here since 1858. I refer to the commonest facts of to day.

At Killebuck River I was told that the Indians would not work, and had not half a mile of fencing. The next day I saw over four miles of fencing, most of it done to my informant's house or farm. I do not think that the man meant to deceive me.

I have been told at other places that Indians could not make irrigation ditches, when ingeniously constructed ditches several miles in length were almost visible.

These are singular facts and they suggest to me how difficult it must be to ascertain facts about Indians at Ottawa.

The Indians themselves cannot speak; their mouths are shut, so men say what they like about them and their affairs without fearing such exposure and correction as they would meet did they speak in the same way of any group of white men.

I feel bound to mention this, because, for instance, in the case of the excellent gentleman who represents this

Province at Ottawa they might unintentionally mislead. I can give a singular instance.

Mr Cornwall is one of the most honorable and intelligent men in this Province. He has lived for more than a dozen years with Indians around him, who like him. He would not do an unjust act. I have only lately read the journals of the Senate, and find that Mr Cornwall defended the Colonial Indian Policy and acts here, on several occasions.

Speaking responsibly he also assuredly said what he believed to be the truth. But what are the facts? My correspondence which invariably understates the facts, shows that, everywhere, the very contrary of what Mr Cornwall stated might be affirmed. I have given dates, facts & particulars, which everyone may examine and test. But the singular thing is that it would only be necessary to instance the very Indians close to Mr Cornwall's place along the wagon road and river between Cook's Ferry and Bonaparte.

The Cook's Ferry Indians number 282 (90 men 81 women 10 youths and 101 children)

The only piece of land reserved for them was a grassy piece at the junction of the Nicola and Thompson Rivers & 300 acres. No water, whatever was assigned for irrigation. I need not go into details. My object being merely to point out that if a gentleman like Mr Cornwall, living among the Indians, falls unwittingly into error respecting their position, what information is likely to be gained from inferior men less favorably placed.

If the



Department could trust the information given by any one respecting Indian matters in his own neighbourhood, they might trust what given by Mr Bonwall, yet the facts are as I have stated them above, and no one will venture to dispute them with me, for I can if necessary put a stronger case.

Supposing that a rising took place at Williams Lake, it would not be a revolt against authority, but the despairing action of men suffering intolerable wrong, which the Prov. Gov. will take as steps to remedy. And if notwithstanding the good relations established between the Okanagan and the Dominion Gov., any of these people should join, it would be caused directly by the distrust produced by the acts of the Prov. Gov. at Osoyoos and head of Okanagan Lake. I think these facts should be fully known, and it occurs to me to mention them to the position generally so that the Sup. Gov. may, should he think fit, report to the Prov. Gov. the general views of the Dom. Gov. as regards the Indian situation.

It would be true kindness to put such pressure on the Prov. Gov. as to cause them at least to understand what is their own, and to undertake them if they believe that the Dom. Gov. will get the Province out of Indian difficulties which they themselves may create.

The weakness and poverty of the Prov. Gov.; their dependence upon a House of Assembly which represents electors whose interests, as regards the public lands, sometimes clash with the reasonable requirements of the Indians,

and also the dread which the Prov. Gov. have of being called on to provide money to adjust certain Indian questions, not susceptible of compromise, are perhaps sufficient to explain, if not to justify, an inaction which, otherwise, would be inexplicable and is so much to be regretted.

I was instructed, last April, to report to the Sup. Gov. cases in which the Prov. Gov. did not reply to letters on Indian business within a reasonable time. I regret to state that there has been no improvement in this respect. The inattention may arise from business incapacity, or from indifference - probably both. It is, I fear, a fact which cannot be changed.

The inattention was the same during the existence of the Gov. preceding that of Mr. Walker, and in the time of the Com. of Assoc. as well as since I became single Commissioner.

The British Columbia Land Act of 1875 was left to its operation only after certain assurances by the Gov. of British Columbia that the objections made to the Act by the Canadian Gov. would be considered to be removed by the agreement for the settlement of the Indian Land question by Commissioners. (Lt. Gov. to Sec. of State 26 April 1876)

Notwithstanding the serious nature of some of the open questions connected with the Indian Land question, they are but few compared with the very extensive area in which satisfactory adjustments have been effected, and I believe that if the Prov. Gov. would undertake that cooperation which they are legally and morally bound to give they would not find these open questions incapable of

solution, or likely to entail any very large expenditure on the part of the Prov. Govt. The difficulty is that they will do nothing, for any action in Indian matters might lose them some votes.

I have during the year received only one complaint from the Prov. Govt., namely, a complaint by Selkirk at Simla House, which I dealt with in my letter of 25 Feb last.

I shall be glad to give explanations to either Govt. as to any arrangement of lands respecting which explanation may be desired, and I respectfully think that it is due to the large number of unrepresented Indians who cannot speak for themselves that their case and views should be known. It is difficult to understand how opinion can be formed by outsiders who have not a knowledge of the people & their stock, a knowledge of the character of the land, and of the purposes which the Indians wish it to serve.

The Commission cannot interfere with legal rights, so that any complaints which may reach your ears refer, if at all, to grazing lands on the public domain. There must be a necessary opposition of interest between stock raising whites and stock raising Indians if the lands of the latter are to be defended, as a matter of fact most of my late work has been within the railway reserve, and the Prov. Govt. which has paid so heavily for these lands may surely assign reasonable portions thereof for Indian uses. The principles on which I have proceeded are stated in the printed "Memorandum on Indian Reserves in the District of Yale" and any objection may attempt if he pleases, to controvert those principles.

I can honestly say, nevertheless, that no part of my work has been more anxious or difficult than the attempt to do what was reasonable for all concerned. It was undesirable to interfere with grazing areas which white people had been using, though they had no property therein, and though in the railway reserve, probably, they soon will be debarred from using these lands without paying something for grazing privileges.

From first to last the Reserve Commission has pursued a policy of conciliation and compromise in view of the practical impossibility of preserving extreme rights in adjusting difficulties of such old date, of a character so complex and varied, and extending over so great an area.

Every case has been fully examined, and in particular any open questions have been made the subject of exhaustive research and the points stated to the Prov. Govt. so as to save them trouble, and I am sure that in the whole correspondence with that Govt., there will not be found a harsh word or a potent expression.

I was sorry to find lately, that the Prov. Govt. had not conveyed any of the Reserves yet. The only way to get this done was for Dr Powell to have gone daily to the Land Office and worried the Mr. Comr, but it appears that no pressure was put upon them.

On one occasion I had to take a lodging in a street through which all the Ministers passed to their Offices and to demonstrate with them in the street morning and evening in addition to sitting at their offices for hours.



before I could get a piece of business put through.

By the 13<sup>th</sup> Clause of the Home of Union, the Indian lands have to be conveyed "from time to time" - "on application" of the Dominion Government.

L. Harkness Esq  
Dep. Sup. Gen. of  
Indian Affairs - Ottawa

I am Sir &c &c  
St. C. M. Sprunt Comr

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

Salmon River, In camp  
1 Decr 1879

Sir,

I beg to permit to enclose original and duplicate accounts for the month of July last, showing \$1237<sup>72</sup> in hand 31 July.

I also enclose original and duplicate vouchers for the above, and notes thereon.

The nature of the work on which the Com<sup>rs</sup> has lately been engaged, namely, on the Coast beyond trail communication, except at a large cost, and also my not having been placed in funds month by month, have lately prevented my conforming to your instructions, relative to the transmission of monthly accounts, but this will be done whenever possible.

For the remaining months of the above first quarter of the financial year namely August & Sept<sup>r</sup>, I have not received remittances, but enclose statement of account for these months.

Y<sup>rs</sup> truly

respect to the December quarter I have received as per Mr. Sinclair's letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 1879 a cheque on the Bank of British Columbia for \$1500<sup>00</sup>.

"for expenditure on account of the Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>" "for Decr quarter 1879". but in the body of the cheque are the following words.

"To meet payments on account of"  
"Res. Com<sup>rs</sup> & Surveys."

I think, however, that this is probably a clerical error in drawing the cheque, and that I may consider your intention to be expressed in the letter of advice, as D<sup>r</sup> Powell gets remittances for the "Surveys" and they do not come to me though I certify to the expenditures.

Under these circumstances I give credit for the above sum of \$1500<sup>00</sup> as remitted for Com<sup>rs</sup> purposes, and enclose statement of account for the December quarter.

To make matters clear, I further enclose a summary account from August to the end of December, and at that time I shall be glad to be placed in funds, as wages, butchery &c and 6 months supplies obtained on credit must then be met.

I will then arrange & forward accounts and vouchers on the monthly plan, from August to Decr, to conform, as far as possible, to the official routine desired.

I may remark that the nature of my employment prevents my sending the cheques to the Bank "as soon as received" (see Receipt note on the official <sup>printed</sup> form &c)

I am at present on a stormy coast over a 100 miles from a Post Office.

The





Copy

Summary Account Showing Amount due  
Indian Res. Commission 31 Dec 1877.

September Quarter  
Aug & Sept Month 2438.27

November Quarter 2434.00

Salmon River Pl.  
1 Dec 1877 } \$14872.29  
S. M. Sprout

Indian Reserve Commission  
British Columbia

Salmon River  
2 Dec 1877

Sir,

I enclose a Cheque of the Finance  
Dept. of Canada for \$1500.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, in my  
favour & specifically endorsed to you, which  
Amount please place to credit of my official  
account.

The  
Manager of the  
Bk. Br. Columbia - Victoria

Yours respectfully,  
S. M. Sprout Comr.

Salmon River B.C.  
2 Dec 1877

Michel  
Late Interpreter  
I. R. Comr.

Mr. Sprout has desired me to  
send you a cheque for \$1200 which you  
will be kind enough to send me a receipt for.  
Hoping you are well and everything prosperous  
with the Indians

I am  
St. Geo. Blenkinsop  
Secy I. R. Comr.

Salmon River B.C.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1877

Dear Sir,  
Mr Sprout has directed me to  
send to Michel Interpreter, the sum of \$1200  
as per Cheque enclosed to him.

Will you kindly get  
him to sign & forward to me a receipt  
for the above amount

Yours truly,  
Mr Jas Mc Intyre  
Lytton

Yours truly  
St. Geo. Blenkinsop  
Secy I. R. Comr.

Address Post Master, No, Victoria

Salmon River  
3 Dec 1877

Sir,

I am duly in receipt of your  
letter of 14 Nov which I have shown to  
Mr Sprout who directs me to say in reply  
that as you are not in funds he will  
settle the accounts directly with the  
Dept. at Ottawa.

J. H. Powell Esq.  
Jas Dupar Victoria

I am Sir  
Geo Blenkinsop  
Secy I. R. Comr.

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission.

Notes on Accounts & Statements enclosed  
in Mr Sprout's letter 1 Dec 1877

No 2 A. S. Farwell \$72.60  
- 3 26.25

In my note dated 10 July 1879 on Accounts then transmitted, I said that it would not be necessary to continue the temporary employment of a regular surveyor beyond the middle of July, or thereabouts. I was able to dispense with his services on the 15 July, accordingly.

While employing a regular surveyor I did not require the services of the explorer, and, accordingly, see Voucher 1, Credit the sum for the pay of the latter.

Vouchers 4 & 5. 3<sup>00</sup> & 6<sup>00</sup> being telegrams chiefly to obtain tenders for stores &c for survey parties. resulting in a great saving by the enforcement of competition, appear, sufficiently, to explain themselves, as also does Voucher No 6.

Sent for Mr. B. B. Kew. - Census Enumerator.

This gentleman has only been supplied with one new tent since the beginning of the work of the Com<sup>rs</sup>, and it is only when the rain comes through his tent that he is supplied with a new one. This fact, suggesting the value of care taking, has made me dislike being responsible for the acts of surveyors who finish a tent in a season, a matter I have to look into.

The small charge of 8<sup>00</sup> for conveying mail, matter in canoes, when I am beyond mail communication, is, I think, properly, chargeable to 'Surveys' as the surveyors have constantly to write

to me, and I have to reply. I pay out of the Field Allowance for the cost of obtaining the mail for the Com<sup>rs</sup> proper charging 'Surveys' merely with a small part thereof, as sometimes I have had to send a mail on 'Survey business' which it would not have been necessary to send at the particular time, so far as the Com<sup>rs</sup> business proper was concerned.

St. F. M. Sprunt

Memo,

Copy

S. L. Hornum Thornton  
Dec 17. 1879

Ind. Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>.

The assignment of the lands of the Salmon River branch of the Euclataw (or Laich, Kivil, Lach) Indians comprises an assignment of the lands on both sides of the river from its mouth at Johnstone's Straits, up to about a mile above the present Indian village, and bounded east & west by the mountains, also, the north half of Section 24 Township 6, and the north west quarter of Section 18 Township 7 as will be more fully described in the formal assignment. This Memo. is given at the request of the Chief. The people have behaved well.

St. F. M. Sprunt  
Com<sup>rs</sup>

see page 123



British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commr

Salmon River  
20 Decr 1879

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. enclosing a copy of letter dated 22 Nov last from Father Mc Guckin of Williams Lake to yourself giving some account of the condition and feelings of the Indians in his district with reference to land matters, and to their white neighbours, and asking me to write to Father Mc Guckin to tell him when the Indian Reserve Commr may be expected to visit that section of the country.

In reply I have to thank you for your communication, and to inform you that the inaction of the Prov. Govt. in respect to irrigation water and other matters has been the cause of the absence of the Commr from the above district, and that inaction still continues.

Under these

circumstances all that I can do is to refer the matter to Ottawa for the consideration of the Sup<sup>t</sup> Gen.

I shall be obliged if you will so inform Father Mc Guckin. The account he gives is very distressful, but there are duties devolving upon the Prov. Govt. in this and other matters which have been fully and

repeatedly brought to their notice in order to attract attention being given to the requirements of the situation, and I am apprehensive that this neglect may go on too long. The action of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Govt. so far as known to me, has been such as to remove all blame from them, and from their officers, no matter what takes place.

I am Sir, &c. &c.  
J. L. Semken Esq. J. L. Semken Esq.  
Ind. Sup<sup>t</sup> Gen. H. H. H. H.

Copy

In the matter of the Petition dated 26 Sept 1879 of Captain Baldwin Arden Wake R.N. residing on Valdez Is. near Nanaimo in British Columbia praying, in effect, that the Dominion Government would consent to a charge in the Indian Reserve on that Island, the undersigned, in accordance with the instructions of the Sup<sup>t</sup> Gen. 27 Oct 1879 has the honour to respectfully submit the following report:-

1. The actions of the Reserve Commr in reference to Indian lands on Valdez Is. and to Capt. Wake's claims in particular, were fully stated in a letter from the undersigned, then Dist<sup>ct</sup> Commr, to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Sup<sup>t</sup> Gen. dated in the month of January 1877 and headed "Ly-ick-sun tribe" of the Chehalis group of Indians, and to that letter the

undersigned respectfully craves reference, should any further information than is contained in this present report be required.

2, These Indians he may remark, however, much wished for two things at the time of the visit of the Reserve Commission.

They did not wish Capt Wake to be on the Island, and they wished to have all the Island for themselves.

Capt Wake was then, and it is believed, still is, the only white settler on the Island.

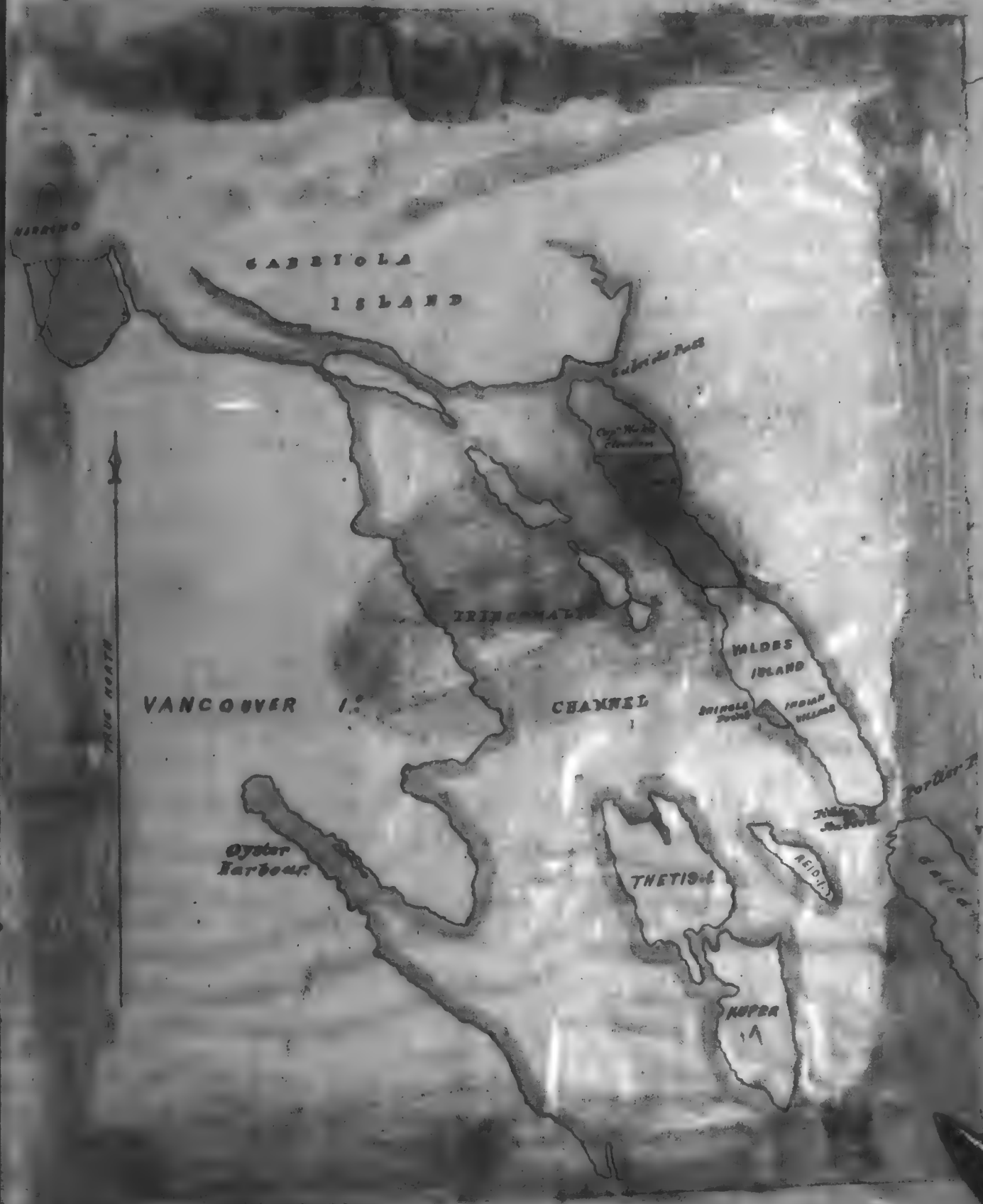
The Com<sup>rs</sup> rejected both the above requests of the Indians, and, in particular, carefully explained to them that Cap. Wake could not be removed, and they also explained the reason why he, as a Naval Officer, got so much land as 760 acres - that is to say 160 acres by pre-emption and 600 acres as a Naval Captain, and the Com<sup>rs</sup> took a lively interest in doing all they could for Capt Wake.

3, The decision of the Com<sup>rs</sup> accordingly was to the effect that the Indian Reserve was to be bounded "on the north by Cap Wake's Military Grant" thus placing for that gentleman the full quantity of land to which, on survey, he might be entitled, as a pre-emptor, and as a retired officer in Her Majesty's Service.

4, Capt Wake has since had his land surveyed by a surveyor sent to the Island under an arrangement

between him and the Prov. Gov., and he therefore knows where the south line of his 760 acres is.

5, The following sketch shows Valdez St., and, roughly the lands of Cap. Wake and the Indians, respectively.





6, Captain Wake, thus having been left in possession of all the land he was entitled to, as ascertained by official survey, it is not obvious in what respect he can consider himself aggrieved.

7, The tenor of his <sup>petition</sup> would show that Capt Wake is desirous of acquiring a portion of the Indian Reserve, in addition to his holding of 760 acres, but there is no reason why this proposal should be entertained, while there are very strong reasons to the contrary.

The Indians would not consent to surrender their lands, and they should not be asked or urged to make this sacrifice, because the reserve, as it exists, is of moderate extent, and, like the whole of the Island, is not of a very desirable character.

8, It does not seem to be necessary to comment on the statement made by Capt Wake that the Commissioners sent a surveyor "to annual records in the Office" "of the Permanent Encroachment" as no such act was done, and if done would have been invalid - the Com<sup>rs</sup> having no power to annual legal titles.

But a word or two, in conclusion, may be added in reference to Capt Wake's statements that the Com<sup>rs</sup> virtually gave "all the best of an island 10 miles long to" "a single Indian." This appears to the undersigned to be a somewhat careless statement.

19, The Commissioners

have no power to give land to single Indians, and have not done so in any case.

The Com<sup>rs</sup> simply determined upon the areas to be assigned to the Com<sup>rs</sup> for "tribes" or "bands" or "nations" whatever the proper term may be, and the land on Valdez St. was assigned to the Com<sup>rs</sup> for the old residents thereon - the Ly. etc. seen Indians, who

numbered in 1877

18 males	}	adults
114 females		
1 male	}	Youth
10 male		
6 female	}	Children

10, The undersigned may further remark on the statement of Capt Wake, that that gentleman selected his 760 acres before the visit of the Com<sup>rs</sup> to the island, and, as there were no settlers then on the island, it may be presumed that he made a selection to suit his purpose.

What the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> did, as regards the Indian lands, was (see above sketch) to confirm to the Indians, immemorially resident there, their old village site and graves, at Shingle Point, and a small piece of rough timbered land around it for firewood - their potatoe ground at Skewak, and their dog-fishing station in Porter's Pass, and then to give them a piece of land as a culte or sheep range - a rough, rocky, poorly timbered area of moderate extent on

6, Captain Wake, thus being having been left in possession of all the land he was entitled to, as ascertained by official survey, it is not obvious in what respect he can consider himself aggrieved.

7, The tenor of his <sup>petition</sup> would show that Capt Wake is desirous of acquiring a portion of the Indian Reserve, in addition to his holding of 760 acres, but there is no reason why this proposal should be entertained, while there are very strong reasons to the contrary.

The Indians would not consent to surrender their lands, and they should not be asked or urged to make this sacrifice, because the reserve, as it exists, is of moderate extent, and, like the whole of the Island, is not of a very desirable character.

8, It does not seem to be necessary to comment on the statement made by Capt Wake that the Commissioners sent a "Surveyor" to annual records in the Office "of the Provincial Government" as no such act was done, and if done would have been invalid - the Com<sup>r</sup> having no power to annul legal titles.

But a word or two, in conclusion, may be added in reference to Capt Wake's statements that the Com<sup>r</sup> virtually gave "all the best of an island 10 miles long to" "a single Indian." This appears to the undersigned to be a somewhat careless statement.

19, The Commissioners

have no power to give lands to single Indians, and have not done so in any case.

The Com<sup>r</sup> simply determines upon the areas to be assigned to the Com<sup>r</sup> for "tribes" or "bands" or "actions" whatever the proper term may be, and the land on Valdez St. was assigned to the Com<sup>r</sup> for the old residents thereon - the Ly.ick. seen Indians, who

numbered in 1877

18 males

14 females } adults

1 male } Youth

10 male Children

6 female W?

10,

The undersigned may further remark on the statement of Capt Wake, that that gentleman selected his 760 acres before the visit of the Com<sup>r</sup> to the island, and, as there were no whites then on the island, it may be presumed that he made a selection to suit his purposes.

What the Reserve Com<sup>r</sup> did, as regards the Indian lands, was (see above sketch) to confirm to the Indians, immemorably resident there, their old village site and graves, at Shingle Point, and a small piece of rough timbered land around it for firewood - their potato ground at Skewick, and their dog-fishing station in Porter's Pass, and then to give them a piece of land as a cattle or sheep range - a rough, rocky, poorly timbered area of moderate extent on



which a single white soldier could not make a living.

The agricultural area available for division among the Indians will not, the undersigned thinks, be found to be more than about three acres per male adult, if so much. And Capt Wake's proposal would practically deprive them of even this.

Indian Res Commr  
Mama. Lilly. Cullen  
British Columbia  
27 Decr 1877

Sd. G. M. Spruce  
Commissioner

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commissioner

Mama. Lilly. Cullen  
28 Decr 1877.

Captain Wake's Petition

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 27 Oct last, enclosing copy of a Petition from Capt B. A. Wake, Valdez Id., and instructing me to report upon the statements made therein.

I now respectfully submit the enclosed report upon the said Petition.

I cannot well say so in an official report, but the simple fact is - that Capt. Wake wishes to get possession of the Indians' potato ground at Skowick to increase the value of his own land. It is a similar

case to that of Mr Duncan at Comox.

These gentlemen would never try to get land owned by white men, but the whole history of Indian lands in this Province induces them to believe that they may succeed in getting land of the Indians by pertinacity and misrepresentation, the Indians being helpless and unable to speak.

In these matters I should think that at least 50 letters have been written in this Province between Mr Duncan, Mr Wake, and myself, the Prov. Com. and Mr. Powell, and these are a sample of other cases which, had it to report all of them to Ottawa, would engage the time of two Secretaries. I have not therefore sooner mentioned Capt Wake's case, but I can assure you every attention has been given to it - in fact, I paid a second visit to Valdez Id. to examine his statements - and he writes to Ottawa only after finding that he cannot succeed in his object - after the questions raised by him have been thoroughly dealt with by the Prov. Com. and the Indian Res. Com.

These applications will cease when steps are taken to prove that the lands of Indians cannot be acquired, merely because their possession is coveted.

The Right Hon.  
The Sup. Genl of  
Indian Affairs, Ottawa.

I am, Sir &c  
Sd. G. M. Spruce  
Com. on

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

Nanaimo, B.C., C.M.A.  
28 Dec 1879

Sir,

I have received your undated letter purporting to enclose a letter from yourself to the Sup. Econ. of Indian Affairs on the subject of Indian Reserves on Valdez Island.

No such copy was enclosed, but there was one from you 21st Nov 1879 to the Superintendent of Indians, Victoria, Dr Powell, on the subject of a fence and other matters.

It is proper to address Dr Powell on these matters, as they are not within the province of the Reserve Comm.

I presume that you now know accurately the south line of your land comprising 760 acres.

I am Sir &c &c  
Cap B. G. Drake R.N. }  
Valdez Island }  
Near Nanaimo }

Ind Res Comm  
British Columbia

Alert Bay  
2 Jan 1880

Dear Sir

I am sorry that I have not been able to see you on our return to Alert Bay owing to your absence.

as there are various matters connected with the Indian land settlements in this quarter on which I should have been glad to have had an opportunity of conversing with you

A. W. Hudson Esq,  
Alert Bay,

I am yours truly  
Sd & M Sprunt Com

Ind Res Comm

Schooner Thornton  
Jan 17 1880

Rems

By error in writing the Rem- of the assignment of the lands of the Salomon R- Indian 17 Dec 1879 the words

"the west half of Section 27 Township 6" were inserted instead of "the north half of Section 24 Township 6"

Sd & M Sprunt  
Comm

Indian Res. Comm

Appendix

British Columbia

A. W. Hudson Esq,  
Bunga

1 Jan 1880

Memorandum on the principles applied by the Commission in assigning Indian Reserves in the district of G.B. which practically is the Southern Interior of the Province.

In my position as Joint Comm., and, subsequently, as Single Comm. it has been necessary



for me to give very careful attention to the instructions and wishes of the Gov. of B. Columbia in reference to the assignment of land Reserves for the Indians.

It is unnecessary to say that the Government of the Province are greatly concerned with the Indian Land question.

The Indians pay no taxes to the Prov. Gov., they outnumber the whites, and the Province has to provide lands for them. B. Columbia is not rich in agricultural lands, and any unnecessary check to white settlement would be displeasing in view of the welfare and progress of this part of Canada.

At the same time it must be said that the Indian Land question is one that must be settled, and the Prov. Gov. have stated that they "have been keenly alive not only to the advantage but to the absolute necessity, and urgent importance of a speedy settlement of all questions connected with the Reserves. The favourable influence which it would exert in the future cannot be overrated." (See Provincial Council Report: 17 August 1875)

It has therefore been incumbent on me, as above said, to exercise mature and unbiassed judgment in carrying out the arrangement between the two Govs, so that, while endeavouring in all cases to act in a liberal spirit towards the Indians, I should avoid what might impede the progress of white settlement.

In undertaking to grace a duty, the first experiment was to consider "the habits, pursuits and conditions of the Indians in different parts of B. Columbia, with a view of determining some general principles upon which a fair distribution of the public lands might be based." I was invited to do this under my instructions from the Prov. Gov. though by the Agreement between the two Govs the adjustment was left entirely in the hands of the Reserve Commission.

Accordingly, I have endeavoured to make myself, by study and observation, acquainted with what it was necessary I should know, and from time to time, have communicated my views to the two Governments concerned.

I have not been able to explain matters to the public in general, for that would be contrary to the departmental practice, and if I wrote letters to the newspapers, I might, perhaps, occasionally forget that the Indians, in many parts of the Province, get letters on Indian subjects read to them; and, owing to the relation of the Reserve Commission to them, they might extract meanings from my letters which were not intended.

In the case of the extensive district of Yale - type as it is of a still larger area of the whole Province not visited by the Commission. I thought it most desirable that the above general rule should be departed from, and that the public should be thoroughly acquainted with

See Provincial Council Report: 17 August 1875

what was being done.

In reporting to the Prov. Gov. on the work of the Com<sup>on</sup> during their first season in the Interior, I stated fully the general principles on which they had proceeded with respect, more particularly, to grazing lands in the district of Yale.

Mr Archibald Mackenzie, the Prov. Com<sup>on</sup>, himself a stock owner in the Interior, approved of this Report and signed it.

Neither from the Gov. of Mr Elliott, nor from that of Mr Macken, have I received any intimation of dissent from the principles of adjustment laid down in that Report.

When appointed single Com<sup>on</sup> I thought it desirable, in view of my great responsibilities, before undertaking work in the Interior, to print and distribute for the information of the public, extracts from the above Report, and in a short Preface, I said I would be glad to receive any suggestions or comments thereon from those who were acquainted with the subject, to assist me in performing my duties satisfactorily, both to the white settlers and the Indians.

The above printed statement was sent to both Govs. and widely distributed copies, in particular, being sent to the Provincial Ottawa representatives, the members of the Provincial Assembly, to all the newspapers in the Province, and

to the majority of the settlers in the districts which the Com<sup>on</sup> was about to visit.

I have not up to this date received any intimation of dissent from the above principles of adjustment from any quarter whatsoever, while many, with whom I have conversed in search of information and counsel, have given willing assent to them.

I now accede to these principles by <sup>attaching</sup> ~~sending~~ a copy of the above printed statement to this memorandum, so that the Superintendent General may have the whole matter before him in a convenient form, should it be the subject of conversation between him and any of our mainland representatives.

The Prov. Gov. has only had occasion, as regards the whole Southern Interior of the Province, to refer two cases of complaint by white settlers to the Prov. Com<sup>on</sup> for report, and these were easily disposed of.

In conclusion I may add that the United States Public Land Commission, created by an Act of Congress, has lately been taking evidence upon this coast in connection with the pastoral interests of the West. I append, also, some newspaper accounts respecting that Commission, as the evidence being given before it as to lands not largely dissimilar from those mentioned in the present Memo. tends to confirm the conclusions



which I had formed by previous independent investigation.

Outside of the duty of negotiating with the Indians, calming their minds and obtaining their confidence, a large part of the work of the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> is practically similar to that of the above Land Commission, for without the knowledge which they are seeking in reference to pastoral interests, the work of the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> could not be well done.

The Rt Hon. Secy. of State for Indian Affairs Ottawa,  
 The Sup. Gen. of Indian Affairs Ottawa,  
 J. H. McSparran, Esq. Secy. of State for Indian Affairs Ottawa,  
 J. H. McSparran, Esq. Secy. of State for Indian Affairs Ottawa,

Mem: Isak-Kayt Expressman from Comox

We met this man to day, 7 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1879, with our mail in Johnston Strait, between Port Keeler and Heceta Channel.

He was so much exhausted and benumbed that it was considered necessary, in order to revive him, to give him a little spirits.

The Indians say this is the best season they have ever known.

S. Horner Johnston

Wm. J. Jenkins  
 Secy. of State for Indian Affairs

Copy  
 Telegram  
 sent from Nanaimo  
 dated 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1880

L. Van Koughnet  
 Rep. Sup. Gen. } I have arrived at Nanaimo from the Coast and will give your various letters attention immediately after getting into office quarters at New Westminster.  
 St. & Spout

# MEMORANDUM.

To The Bank of British Columbia,  
 VICTORIA.  
 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1879  
 J. M. Spout Esq.  
 Dom. Gov. Gen.  
 Victoria

Dear Sir,  
 I have today received a telegraphic advice in your favour of Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.) which amount I have placed to your credit

J. M. Spout  
 Manager

which I had formed by previous investigation.

Contrary to what I had expected of negotiating with the Indians concerning their lands and obtaining their confidence, a large part of the work of the Reserve Com. is in fact very similar to that of the above named Commission, for without the knowledge which they are seeking in reference to pastoral interests, the work of the Reserve Com. could not be carried on.

The Hon. Secy. of the Indian Affairs Office  
The Sup. Genl. of the Indian Affairs Office  
Indian Affairs Office

Mem: Isak Paul Esq. from  
Hawke

We sent this man to the coast with our mail in Johnston Strait, Port Kaituma and Macmillan Channel.

He was so much exhausted and ill that it was considered necessary to order to return him, to give him a chance of recovery.

The Indians say this is the best season they have ever known.

Isak Paul Esq.

Isak Paul Esq.

Copy  
Telegram  
Sent from Kamour  
dated 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 1880

I have just received  
I have arrived at Kamour  
from the coast and will give your various  
orders attention immediately after getting  
into this quarter at Kamour.  
S. J. Sprout

MEMORANDUM.

FROM	TO
The Bank of British Columbia, VICTORIA.	G. M. Sprout Esq.
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 1879	Dom. Rev. Com. Victoria

Dear Sir,  
I have today received a telegraphic advice  
in your favor of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.)  
which amount I have placed to your  
credit

S. J. Sprout  
Manager



Vancouver 28 Jan 1880

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst on the subject  
of accounts. I beg to enclose extract from my letter  
of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst.

British Columbia

Indian Reserve Commission

30<sup>th</sup> Jan 1880

Memorandum

It is essential that there should be no change of policy  
on the part of the Government in reference to the Land adjustment.

The Indians in all the districts visited by the  
Reserve Commission have had their great grievance redressed,  
and there is not the slightest danger of their rising against  
the Government. They confide now in the Government;  
and the tribes still unvisited are anxiously awaiting the  
same measure of justice dealt out to those who have been  
visited.

The Land question is the greatest  
question in the minds of all the Indians in the Interior,  
and any suspicion of a change of policy in relation to it,  
or of an intention to treat one class of the Indian population  
- namely the unvisited - differently from the people already  
visited, would probably unsettle the minds of both, and  
have a very bad effect.

Another matter is that the open questions  
in the already visited districts should be settled. These  
have been left over too long, and their existence is excessively  
inconvenient and some of them may under conceivable  
circumstances, cause serious local trouble.

With respect to the two matters above mentioned,  
the essence of the existing policy is that the decision, whenever  
possible, shall be "on the spot" (see agreement of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
Jan 1876), and the general principles hitherto followed  
in assigning reserves in the Interior will be found in  
Appendix A to this memorandum.

A list of the open questions needing attention  
will be found in Appendix B

(Yd) L.M.S.

Vancouver 28 Jan 1880

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst on the subject  
of accounts I beg to enclose extract from my letter  
of the 14<sup>th</sup>

British Columbia

Indian Reserve Commission

30<sup>th</sup> Jan 1880

Memorandum

It is essential that there should be no change of policy  
on the part of the Government in reference to the Land adjustment.

The Indians in all the districts visited by the  
Reserve Commission have had their great grievance redressed,  
and there is not the slightest danger of their rising against  
the Government. They confide now in the Government,  
and the tribes still unvisited are anxiously awaiting the  
same measure of justice dealt out to those who have been  
visited.

The Land question is the greatest  
question in the minds of all the Indians in the Interior,  
and any suspicion of a change of policy in relation to it,  
or of an intention to treat one class of the Indian population  
- namely the unvisited - differently from the people already  
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in assigning reserves in the Interior will be found in  
Appendix A to this memorandum.

A list of the open questions needing attention  
will be found in Appendix B

(Sgd) L.M.S.



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Appendix A

See page 134

Appendix B to memorandum 30<sup>th</sup> Jan'y. 1880. Ind. Res. Com<sup>tee</sup>  
B.C. being a statement of open questions

Case of Robert Hughes Chemainus (see letter of A. M. Kinley  
+ G. M. Sproat 21<sup>st</sup> April 1877 to the Hon: The attorney Gen<sup>l</sup>)  
2 years and 9 months before  
the Provincial Government.

This is a question as to the right of Mr Hughes to a piece of  
land which runs inconveniently into the reserve and is  
claimed by him under what is known colloquially as an  
"oyster letter" given by the old Colonial foot. The legal  
adviser of the Commission does not think that Mr Hughes  
has any title.

Timber Privilege for the Se-shell Indians of Jarvis Inlet,  
see letter of G. M. Sproat to the Provincial Secretary  
Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1876 and copy of Commissioners Journal Report  
Page 13 sent to the Prov<sup>l</sup>. Secretary

3 years before the Provincial Government  
these excellent Indians having but a small amount

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of arable land in their district were very anxious to  
have a portion of timber land and to follow the industry  
of logging, and the Commissioners in this the first  
application of the kind, referred it to the Provincial  
Government.

Case of C. O. Neefe Okanagan. brought before the  
Hon: The Attorney General in Jan'y. 1878 and in letters  
of G. M. Sproat to Chief Com<sup>tee</sup> of Lands and Works  
in various letters and telegrams specially in letters  
4<sup>th</sup> May 1878 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 1879 (Copy of which  
last was sent to Ottawa 10<sup>th</sup> March 1879)

23 months before the Prov<sup>l</sup>. Government.  
This is a serious case likely at any time to lead to  
local trouble probably accompanied with bloodshed.  
The old Chief Chillidictwa with whom good  
relations exist has prevented inconvenient action  
so far. The gravity of the situation will be  
greatly increased if the Greenhorn case (see page 148)  
should really be raised and become known to the  
Indians

Irrigation water question see letter of G. M. Sproat to Prov<sup>l</sup>.  
Secretary 28<sup>th</sup> April 1878 and to the Chief Commissioner of  
Lands 24<sup>th</sup> July 1878 - particularly \* Field minute  
enclosed in the letter - and see other letters say to  
Prov<sup>l</sup>. Secy. 28<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 1878. + to the Supt. Genl.  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 1879 and 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1878 and Nov<sup>r</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> 1878  
\* This Field Minute gives a review of the earlier history  
of Indian affairs, and may also be referred to as regards  
the irrigation water question in general - Copy was sent  
to Ottawa 30<sup>th</sup> July 1878

see next page

The irrigation water question admittedly, is difficult, but it is one that must be settled for the land is of small use to the Indians without water. I have settled the question in various places by inducing settlers to give up a portion of the water recorded by them, but where compromise is impossible, the question manifestly, is one which the Provincial Government should take up, as no Recorder Commissioner without reference to that Govt. could undertake to define such questions as the following.

What is the nature of the right to water acquired by a record? The popular notion among Settlers is that the water they record is as much theirs as the land pre-emption is. Mr. McBright L.C. inclines to the opinion that the record is merely of the nature of a revocable licence, and that a man's ditches outside a man's own land would require to be ditched by deed.

What is "an inch" of water for agricultural purposes in British Columbia? It would appear from Mr. McKim's report sent by me to Ottawa 8<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1878, that the answer to this question requires consideration.

A settler irrespective of the quantity recorded, is entitled to use only what he can, "without waste". How is the question of "waste" to be determined? of what construction must the water-channel be to prevent loss or undue loss from seepage and evaporation?

Must the ditch be flumed? In some places there would be enough, perhaps, of water, were it saved in transit.

Is a man entitled, (where there is a scarcity of water for the agricultural purposes of whites and Indians) to record water for other than agricultural purposes - say milling? Usually, in such cases, the water driving a wheel can be returned to the stream.

Is it lawful in British Columbia to take all the water from the natural bed of a stream,

to the prejudice of others, say Indians, living lower down the stream?

I have been prepared to undertake personally or with the assistance of an engineer, the adjustment of the water question, could I be instructed on these and other points, and no doubt, if settlers understood their real position as regards water, a compromise might in many cases be made.

I suggest that the Provincial Govt. state its views, and either leave the water decisions locally to the Comm<sup>r</sup> and Surveyor who will travel with the Comm<sup>r</sup>, or send a Surveyor specially with the Commission at the expense of the Provincial Govt.

By the Land Act the District Assistant Land Commissioners are the officers who settle water questions between whites, but in the Indian cases I doubt if these officers could spare the time to visit possibly many distant places.

Case of Water Record of Mr. P. Park, Cache Creek (see letter of J. M. Sproat to Chief Commissioner of Lands 28<sup>th</sup> July 1878)

18<sup>th</sup> Months before the Provincial Govt.

The record was accepted by the recorder "subject to Indian requirements," but I brought the matter to the notice of the Provincial Govt.

Case of Chinamen who have intruded on Indian Lands at Spaptsum Flat Thompson River, see letter to Field Minute to Chief Comm<sup>r</sup> of Lands 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1878

Field Minute sent to Ottawa also 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1878

16 Months before Provincial Govt.

This case much requires adjustment. I have proposed the most easy course for all concerned, namely cancel the decision record, and then in half an hour I could see the ground clear lines that would not much hurt



the chinamen's improvements and satisfy the Indians. If the Dominion foot. has to eject the chinamen they could <sup>probably</sup> be removed, for which there is no necessity.

Sale of portion of Indian Reserve at Cowichan (Marriners Case) see letter to Chief Commr. of Lands 28<sup>th</sup> March 1878, see also my letter to Ottawa 1<sup>st</sup> May 1879 and 17<sup>th</sup> May 1879, with enclosures.

22 months before the Pool foot.

This case does not involve much land, but the distance of the foot. of the part of the Cowichan Indians makes it inadvisable to do anything to add to it.

The land sold was formally assigned as part of the reserve, and maps and decisions sent to the foot. and to the Indians long before the sale, which thus was illegal.

Sale of land at Cowichan (Suttons Case)

2 years before the Pool foot.

The land sold was a portion of the Indian Reserve duly advised and mapped to the Pool foot. and to the Indians a year before the sale which thus was illegal.

Case of <sup>E</sup>Daigreau, Similkameen. see letter G.M. Sprout to Chief Commr. of Lands 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1879.

The Government accepted a pre-emption record for land previously assigned as a reserve, but the man on inquiry retired and gave up his claim and this should now be cancelled by the Government.

Sale of principal portion of Osoyoos Reserve by the Pool foot. to Mr. Haynes (see letter of G.M. Sprout to Chief Commr. of Lands 9<sup>th</sup> April 1879).

see my report 9<sup>th</sup> April 1879, sent that date to Ottawa.

10 months before the Pool foot.

This is a most serious matter in itself, and with reference to the feelings of the Okanagan Indians who are nearest to the frontier and who have the O'Keefe (and may have) the Greenhow case to trouble them

further. So far they have acted patiently. The Dominion Government should eject Mr. Haynes failing the cancelling by the Pool foot. of the grant, which I am advised was illegal. Little can be done with the Okanagan until these matters are settled.

The Provincial Government should, I think, be asked to make progress with the conveyance of money assigned and surveyed. They have had sketches and filed notes since 20<sup>th</sup> May last.

Case of Thomas Greenhow, see my letter to Ottawa with enclosures 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1879. The Provincial Government will surely act with circumspection if they raise this question, it having been arranged by their direct authority.

I could not answer for anything the Indians might do if they became aware of it - the place being an old favorite place of theirs and espousing dear to several of the most influential Chiefs. I hope the Provincial foot. will re-read the papers and avoid embarrassment.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July 1878 and at other times, I have mentioned to the Provincial foot. the policy of making land and water records "subject to Indian requirements" until the reserve Commr. has passed.

It is singular that I have been able to make adjustments at all in districts where white men have been purchasing land and recording water up to the date of my arrival. This of course has added much to the trouble and labour, and the Indians regret to see sometimes places pass into other hands which they were waiting to show to me on my arrival. The Adams Lake Indians, South Thompson River, a moral industrious people, have only two or three acres of irrigable farming land per head and there is a piece near them - touching their reserve in fact - which I think has become vacant since the visit of

the Commission by its abandonment by Mr. J. Walter whom the Prov. Govt. permitted to acquire land elsewhere - I greatly wish this piece could be added to the Adams Lake people's land, and I feel sure if the Prov. Govt. knew these Indians and the circumstances, they would be glad to give them an opportunity of increasing their cultivation. The Commissioners could not find sufficient land for them.

The "Winter Stock Ranges Act" which appears to me to be an act which may produce its effects, bettering the unadjusted condition of the land question.

Permission has been given by a Provincial order in Council to a local Board under this act at Cache Creek which is within the Dominion Railway Lands. Can this have any effect?

The village of the Nahoose Indians was included in a timber lease and subsequently timber land which like the She-Shulls (page 2) they much wanted, was sold close up to the village though their wishes had been repeatedly mentioned by the Reserve Commission.

This is a pity because the people are industrious and really meant to work, and trees cut by them are just as good to Saw Mills as trees cut by any body. On beginning work on the Coast. I made great overtures to try to find a piece for them elsewhere, so as to avoid raising a most difficult question between the Governments and I think I succeeded in getting a piece much inferior, but which will satisfy some of the people.

I have not noticed in the "Gazette" any cancelling of the establishment of the highway through reserves at Chilliwack mentioned in mine.

of 24<sup>th</sup> May 1879, and declared by the Dom. Govt. to be illegal. It is not likely that the Council & Council in Chilliwack will take action but they should not be allowed to retain the supposed authority in their hands.

Probably the Prov. Govt. has overlooked this matter. I do not remember at the moment any other open questions requiring discussion and action.

The water question, and the questions of the Osoyoos Reserve, the O'Keefe and Graham at head of the Okanagan Lake, and the Spatsizi Flat question, are very important among the foregoing (yrd) G. M. S.

Indian Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria 3 Feb 1880

Sir

Under my instructions from Ottawa it appears that in future the money for the requirements of this Com<sup>rs</sup> has to be placed to your credit and remitted by you to me from time to time when necessary - the accounts and vouchers thereafter being sent to you for audit.

The date which we agreed upon in conversation should divide the old from the new practice was the 31 January.

It will facilitate audit, and the arrangements generally, to understand beforehand the routine, which it may be desirable to adopt, and I now write for information on this point.

The plan



of making an allowance in full has the advantage of saving much time and trouble in elaborating official vouchers for small payments.

There will be required while in town my own pay and board and the same for Mr. Blankinship. I shall also require the services of a copyist and a draftsman, and if work has to be prosecuted in the interim, as you state, in early spring, no time should be lost in making the necessary investigations and copies of documents and maps at the Land Office for the whole country that may be visited.

J. W. Powell Esq M.L.C.  
Sd. Capt. Victoria

I am Sir  
Your obedient servant  
Ed. G. McSpreat

Capt. J. D. Morrison  
Sir,

Victoria 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1880.

I beg to hand over to you the Schooner "Thornton" chartered from you. If you will be good enough to send in your account it will be paid as soon as funds are received from Ottawa.

Your obedient servant  
Ed. G. McSpreat

# Indian Reserve Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 27 1880  
Victoria

Sir,

I have only now received your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. on my arrival from the Coast.

I write this merely to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and to say that I will look into the matter you mention as soon as I can. At present I have a great deal of office work in arrears, with which I am now occupied.

Samuel Green Esq  
Chellivack

I am Yours truly  
Ed. G. McSpreat

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria British Columbia  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 1880

In the matter of a letter written by Mr. Archibald McMurtry, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1879, to William the Chief of a Tribe of Indians at Williams Lake British Columbia, and published in the "Daily Colonist", Victoria, B.C. on the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1879, the undersigned, whose attention has only now been drawn to that letter, begs leave respectfully to make the following comments for the information of the Right Honourable the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

used William Lake Indians.  
LAC LA HAGUE, Nov. 30.  
I noticed your letter in The Colonist issue of the 12th inst., and I am sorry to find that the purpose for my own justification now remarked thereon in the issue of The Colonist.  
I am very sorry to find that I have been so much misunderstood in the first place. I know you will have my words before you, and I have through over confidence in the word of others, unwittingly allowed myself to make promises to you and other Indians in this part of the country which have not been kept in any way with good faith. When the Indian Commission was in the country I received letters from the Rev. Father McGeehan, and other white men in this vicinity, informing them they might expect us. I submitted such letters to my brother commissioners and they advised me to state that the attention of the Commission would be directed to the district as the Shuswap Indians were not Nicola Indians and were not to be disturbed. When the Commission arrived at the 150 M. you and I expressed our surprise that you believed me and some engaged.

(For remainder of letter see last folio 159)

of making an allowance in full has the advantage of saving much time and trouble in elaborating official vouchers for small payments.

There will be received while in town my own pay and board and the same for Mr. Blankinship. I shall also require the services of a copyist and a draftsman, and if work has to be prosecuted in the interior, as you state, in early spring, no time should be lost in making the necessary investigations and copies of documents and maps at the Land Office for the whole country that may be visited.

I am Sir  
Your obedient servant  
Ed. G. Sproat

Capt. J. H. Brown  
Sir,

Victoria 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1880.

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Ed. G. Sproat

# Indian Reserve Commission

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1880

Victoria

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I am, Yours truly  
Samuel Green Esq  
Chellivick

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria British Columbia  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 1880

In the matter of a letter written by by Mr. Archibald McVintay, 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1879, to William the Chief of a Band of Indians at Williams Lake British Columbia, and published in the "Daily Colonist", Victoria, B.C. on the 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 1879, the undersigned, whose attention has only now been drawn to that letter, begs leave respectfully to make the following comments for the information of the Right Honourable the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs.

The enclosed William Lake Indian.  
LAC LA HACHE, Nov. 30.  
William, Chief of Williams Lake Indians.  
Sir:—I noticed your letter in The Daily Colonist issue of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., and I purpose for my own justification making a few remarks thereon in the columns of The Colonist.  
In the first place I know you will believe my words notwithstanding I have, through over-confidence in the word of others, unwittingly allowed myself to make promises to you and other Indians in this part of the country which have not been kept in any degree with good faith. When the joint Indian commission was in the Kamloops country I received letters from the Rev. Father McQueen, and many other white men in this vicinity, stating that the Indians were anxious to be informed when they might expect me. I submitted such letters to my brother commissioners and they authorized me to state that the attention of the commission would be directed to this district as soon as the Shuswap, Okanagan and Nicola Indian could be settled with. When you last July at the 190 Mile House felt sure Mr. Sproat would come among you and I expressed my cordiality; you believed me and home satisfied.

(For remainder of letter see last folio 159)



With respect to the above, the undersigned states that so far as he is concerned, and so far as the Reserve Commission is concerned, Mr. McKinlay's statement is entirely without foundation.

The manner of communicating with the Indians was one of the first considerations in carrying on the work of the Reserve Commission and the rules adopted have had much to do with the success of the work.

In dealing with Indians on the spot, no individual Commissioner was allowed to speak to the Chief on matters of business unless all the Commissioners were present. No messages on business were sent orally to the Chief through Indians, but the messages should be dictated. Communications with Indians at a distance have invariably been made in carefully worded letters from the Commission sent through the District Magistrates or through clergymen, and recorded in the books of the Commission.

So stringently have these rules been followed that, when Mr. Anderson at the close of the 1877 season deviated 25 miles to see the Kuremens Chief, and rejoined the Commission two days afterwards, it was recorded in a special Minute instructing him what he was to say and what he was not to say. But for the transaction of business in this District, firm manner, and dealing with the people in groups and taking them as they came, without yielding to the desires of self-important chiefs or to the supposed need of visitations, off the route, to special places, the work of the Commission would have been confused and more expensive, and the work of the surveyors following the Commission would also have been spoiled.

The Kamloops group of the Muscogees was,

for reasons of policy first dealt with - next the Okanagan group - then the Sekla Kapa munks, and subsequently the Lower Fraser Indians.

Does Mr. McKinlay wish to be believed that the Reserve Commission, on first undertaking work on the mainland with a certainty of several years work before it among the above mentioned people - a war imminent and the whole future uncertain - was so foolish as to bind itself, several years ahead, to visit an isolated tribe nearly 200 miles from Kamloops?

Had any such obligation been incurred, for any special reasons, the fact would have been recorded and would have been communicated to the Indians through the Magistrate of the District, not in a private letter from an individual Commissioner.

I well remember Mr. McKinlay stating that the Indians near his place of residence, were anxious to know our movements, but from all parts of the country, similar communications came, and to all, the official answer of the Commission was the same, "we are doing our best - the country is extensive" - "be trustful and patient, and you will be visited by and by."

So much upon the matter under review, up to the acceptance by me of the office of single Commissioner.

Mr. McKinlay at that time said to me on parting, "I suppose we shall see you up my way by and by" To which I replied "No doubt." He then said "I do not envy you your work, I would not undertake it alone for \$100,000 in cash." I have had no other communication with Mr. McKinlay on the matter since that time. He is one whom

personally I respect, but I could not send an official message through him to any Tribe of Indians - supposing I sent an oral instead of a written message, which I would not do.

All communications respecting Williams Lake affairs have been made by the Reserve Commission either through Mr. Lemham, or Mr. Lang-Mason, the local Justice of the Peace, or through Father McQueen of Williams Lake, whom I have personally seen when engaged employed in the New Westminster District, and with whom I have conversed on Williams Lake matters.

I have advised both Governments, from time to time of every piece of information that has reached me from the authoritative sources above mentioned - Mr. Lang-Mason - and Father McQueen - and have sent copies also of my letters to these gentlemen, and further, I have kept Mr. Lemham duly advised.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 1879 I wrote as follows to the Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works -

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of"  
 "Mr. Guis's letter of the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, and notice that"  
 "the information in your possession relative to"  
 "the discontent of the Indians in the North"  
 "Interior agrees with that communicated by the"  
 "Reserve Commission on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 1878"  
 "to the Hon. The Provincial Secretary, and to yourself"  
 "on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1878 and 20<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup> April"  
 "last" - - - - -

Into the situation of affairs thus defined by consecutive official correspondence it appears that Mr. McKinlay, a gentleman occupying a private station and without the semblance of any kind of authorisation, has intrusively entered,

and not only has taken upon himself to give assurances to the Indians but has written a letter to the Chief containing most gross misstatements and imputations, and having written that letter, he has had the incredible recklessness to publish it in the newspapers.

He then appears to have proceeded to Victoria, and met a number of "old wise men" who opened a correspondence with both Governments, showing the miserable manner in which the Indians have been treated in this Province. Upon this I would remark that it is somewhat late in the day for these unnamed gentlemen to advocate the interests of the Indians. Is it Mr. McKinlay's idea that he, and those gentlemen have been able to give better information to the Governments respecting Williams Lake affairs than has been furnished, from time to time, during two years past, by Father McQueen and Mr. Lang-Mason &c, through Mr. Lemham and through the Reserve Commission? And is he prepared to affirm that there has been any neglect on the part of the Reserve Commission to point out "the miserable manner in which the Indians have been treated, now rendering it necessary for these gentlemen to step forward, and remedy that neglect?"

They could not use their influence in a better cause, still I may say that if they will read the correspondence of the Commission with the Governments during three years past, they will find that they themselves are somewhat late in entering the field, to advocate the interest of the Indians.

The undersigned does not find it easy to criticise Mr. McKinlay's letter because the object of it is not easily understood. One singular inaccuracy



personally I respect, but I could not send an official message through him to any Tribe of Indians - supposing I sent an oral instead of a written message, which I would not do.

All communications respecting Williams Lake affairs have been made by the Reserve Commission either through Mr Lenchman, or Mr Lang-Mason, the local Justice of the Peace, or through Father Mc Guckin of Williams Lake, whom I have personally seen when engaged employed in the New Westminster District, and with whom I have conversed on Williams Lake matters.

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 that they themselves are somewhat late in entering  
 the field, to advocate the interest of the Indians.

The undersigned does not find it easy to criticise  
 Mr Mc Kenlay's letter because the object of it is not  
 easily understood. One singular inaccuracy

may be noted which by its nature shows the necessity of corresponding in reference to Indian matters at Williams Lake and elsewhere, through responsible officers, and not through persons who are habitually careless. Mr McKenlay was Commissioner for the Provincial Government, and in his letter, now under review, he says that in successive official reports to his own Government he stated that the "Indians" from Yale to Spence's bridge" (80 miles along the wagon road) "possess no land at all with the exception of a few acres at Spuzzum."

It will appear almost inconceivable to the Department at Ottawa that the undersigned should have to state in reply the fact that between the places named, there are 15 to 20 of the oldest surveyed Indian reserves in the Province, through which, or by the villages on which Mr McKenlay has often travelled, and twice in the company of the undersigned.

Where Mr McKenlay is correct is in stating that at Williams Lake "the difficulty is to find it" (land) in such situations we would be capable of being irrigated without great expense and labour at least that is the general opinion, but the undersigned has not yet visited the place.

Father McQuinn or Mr Lang Treason to whom the Resurvey Commission explained matters, could have informed Mr McKenlay that this water difficulty is the real difficulty at Williams Lake and elsewhere in the arid portions of the Province, and reflection would have shown him that the Resurvey Commission cannot settle these water questions unless the Provincial Government takes them up.

He says that he does not see where lands in 5 or 6 localities well known to him are to be found

without purchasing from white settlers. Now, if anyone knows, Mr McKenlay knows that the Resurvey Commission has no power to buy land, and no instructions even to recommend such a means of adjustment, and he also knows that in the opinion of the Dominion Government the duty of finding land for the Indians is upon the Province.

He further knows that the whole expense of the Commission is borne by the Dominion Government. Yet he professes indignation that the Resurvey Commission which he knows cannot, without Provincial Government help, adjust these questions, should have been ordered elsewhere, pending discussion between the two governments as to a means of adjusting the admittedly difficult question concerning water for irrigating Indian lands.

Having thus to work elsewhere, Mr McKenlay objects to the place where work was undertaken on the coast, when, as above said, the policy of the Government, following imperative circumstances, did not permit the Commission to continue work in the Interior.

He apparently forgets that the Commission took up the work where the former Commission were reluctantly obliged to leave off; and that the work has lately <sup>been</sup> carried on in District in which he, as Provincial Commissioner, on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1877, asked the Chief Commissioner of lands to withhold lands from pre-emption or purchase, pending the return of the Commission, when possible, to adjust the land claims of the Indians.

The undersigned regrets that it has been necessary to correct the statements of a former colleague

(Ses) Gilbert M. Sprout  
Commissioner



I have been thinking of the  
 northwest coast, for what object no one  
 can surmise. As soon as I heard of  
 this wonderful move I proceeded to  
 Victoria where I met a number of old  
 wise men, and to the Indian and to  
 justice, and who were equally as illig-  
 nant as myself at Mr. Sproat's pro-  
 ceedings. We addressed letters to the  
 Provincial Government and the Gov-  
 ernment at Ottawa expressing our  
 opinion and deprecating the mischievous  
 manner in which your tribe as well as  
 others have been treated. In my re-  
 port to the Provincial Government  
 endeavored to show as clearly as pos-  
 sible the fact that few of the tribes  
 Cache Creek had anything like  
 and to support them, and I mentioned  
 your tribe in particular, who, to my  
 certain knowledge, have not one inch  
 they can call their own. Following  
 extracted from my report of 8th March,  
 1878, addressed to Hon. A. C. Elliott.  
 "As I remarked in my former report  
 the Indians from Yale to Spence's  
 Bridge possess no land at all with the  
 exception of a few acres at Spuzzum.  
 Those on the Bonaparte, Canoe Creek,  
 Dog Creek, Alkali Lake and Soda  
 Creek have only very small reserves at  
 present of an extremely sterile soil,  
 and those of Williams Lake none what-  
 ever, and for my own part I really do  
 not see where lands in these neighbor-  
 hoods are to be found to give them  
 without purchasing from white settlers.  
 I have called your attention again to  
 this subject, as I think it a grave one.  
 No doubt there is plenty of land to be  
 found, but the difficulty is to find it in  
 such situations as would be capable of  
 being irrigated without great expense  
 labor.  
 I hope either Mr. Lenihan or, Col.  
 will consider your wants as ex-  
 pressed in your letter and take means  
 to supply you with such food as will  
 save you from starvation. Your father  
 confidence in my word in days  
 ago, and I think you will do the  
 same. Believe me once more when I  
 say that I feel sure ample justice will  
 be done to you all next spring. Should  
 my word, however, on this occasion  
 I will never ask you again to have  
 confidence in it, at the same time I  
 trust you would not think that I  
 willfully mislead you. With  
 much respect, I remain,  
 Your friend,  
 ARCH. McKINLAY.

See p. 152

Indian Reserve Commission  
 British Columbia  
 Temporarily at Victoria  
 7th Feb 1880

Dear Sir /  
 Bon's Kupar Island farm is in  
 hands of Alark and Maam Victoria, who are  
 authorized to sell for \$1000. One here is in  
 Halifax N.S. the other in England. I said or  
 meant to say to you that \$800. not \$300  
 was the price put on it by Mr Bon in his  
 offer to the government.

Reference to my private journal shows that  
 in talking with Mr Bon 17 Jan 1877 he said  
 that about 50 acres altogether could be cultivated  
 at Village Bay within his 100 acres including  
 what he had cleared - which I think was  
 about 22 acres divided into 3 fields (one 12  
 one 6 one 4 acres) He said he proposed  
 ploughing 22 acres in spring and hoped to  
 get \$600 to \$800 worth of Timothy next year -  
 There were a barn, dwelling - good spring of  
 water - orchard \$20 of fruit trees bearing  
 for 3 years - a good many apples last year.  
 Mr Bon said that Alder bottoms run through  
 the whole of the Island. Except Bon's the  
 Island is Indian land. I enclose rough  
 sketch of the actual survey of the Island  
 showing Bon's claim.

With my compliments to your son  
 I am dear Sir

Resd H J Roberts  
 Coroner

Yours in haste  
 H. M. Sproat  
 Commissioner

My friends and more  
 when I learned that the promises  
 made by himself and the other com-  
 missioners, through me, he only  
 came as far as Lytton, and from thence  
 followed his steps and proceeded to the  
 northwest coast, for what object no one  
 can surmise. As soon as I heard of  
 this wonderful move I proceeded to  
 Victoria where I met a number of old  
 wise men, friends to the Indian and to  
 justice, and who were equally as indig-  
 nant as myself at Mr. Sproat's pro-  
 ceedings. We addressed letters to the  
 Provincial Government and the Gov-  
 ernment at Ottawa expressing our  
 opinion and deprecating the miserable  
 manner in which your tribe as well as  
 others have been treated. In my re-  
 port to the Provincial Government  
 endeavored to show as clearly as  
 possible the fact that few of the tribes  
 Cache Creek had anything like a  
 land to support them, and I mentioned  
 your tribe in particular, who, to my  
 certain knowledge, have not one inch  
 they can call their own. Following  
 extracted from my report of 8th March,  
 1878; addressed to Hon. A. C. Elliott:  
 "As I remarked in my former report  
 the Indians from Yale to Spence's  
 Bridge possess no land at all with the  
 exception of a few acres at Spuzzan.  
 Those on the Bonaparte, Canoe Creek,  
 Dog Creek, Alkali Lake and Soda  
 Creek have only very small reserves at  
 present of an extremely sterile soil,  
 and those of Williams Lake none what-  
 ever, and for my own part I really do  
 not see where lands in these neighbor-  
 hoods are to be found to give them  
 without purchasing from white settlers.  
 I have called your attention again to  
 this subject, as I think it a grave one.  
 No doubt there is plenty of land to be  
 found, but the difficulty is to find it in  
 such situations as would be capable of  
 being irrigated without great expense  
 and labor."  
 I hope either Mr. Lenihan or Col.  
 Swell will consider your wants as ex-  
 pressed in your letter and take means  
 to furnish you with such food as will  
 save you from starvation. Your father  
 has confidence in my word in days  
 long by, and I think you still do the  
 same. Believe me once more when I  
 say that I feel sure ample justice will  
 be done to you all next spring. Should  
 my word, however, on this occasion  
 fail I will never ask you again to have  
 confidence in it; at the same time I  
 know you would not think that I  
 would wilfully mislead you. With  
 deep sympathy, I remain,  
 Your friend,  
 ABRAHAM MCKINLAY.

Indian Reserve Commission  
 British Columbia  
 temporarily at Victoria  
 7th July 1881

Dear Sir /  
 Louis Kuper Island farm is in  
 hands of Alar and Thomas Victoria, who are  
 authorized to sell for \$1000. Each is in  
 Halifax N.S. the other in England. I said or  
 meant to say to you that \$300. not \$300  
 was the price put on it by the Government in his  
 name to the Government.

Reference to my private journal shows that  
 in talking with Mr. Kuper 17 Jan'y 1877 he said  
 that about 50 acres altogether could be cultivated  
 at Village Bay within his 100 acres including  
 what he had cleared - which I think was  
 about 22 acres divided into 3 fields (one 12  
 one 6 one 4 acres) He said he proposed  
 ploughing 22 acres in spring and hoped to  
 get \$600 to \$800 worth of Timothy next year.  
 There were a barn, dwelling - good spring of  
 water - orchard & 20 or 30 fruit trees bearing  
 for 3 years - a good many apples last year.  
 Mr. Kuper said that Alder bottoms run through  
 the whole of the Island. Except Louis's the  
 Island is Indian land. I enclose rough  
 sketch of the actual survey of the Island  
 showing Louis's claim.

With my compliments to your son  
 I am dear Sir

Resd H. J. Roberts  
 Comox

(H. J.)

Yours in haste  
 H. J. Sproat  
 Comox.



Indian Reserve Commission  
B.C. 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1880.

Memorandum on the question whether Reserve Commission work should be begun at Williams Lake in the approaching 1880 season, as ordered in Mr. Vancouver's letter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Decr 1879.

The practice of the Com<sup>rs</sup> hitherto has been to take the Indians in their turn - one group after another - in the district embraced within the programme of the year, no divisions being made to please the whim or ambition of chiefs, or to take first, tribes which had, or feared they had, exceptional grievances.

This not only saves money which would be spent in going to and fro, but is a steady method, intelligible to the Indians, and being understood by them, they wait patiently till their time comes. They quite understand the map of the country, and appreciate the controlling effect of the weather and seasons upon the movements of the Com<sup>rs</sup>.

The adjustment of the Indian lands (subject to certain open questions), has steadily proceeded from the frontier northward to about the 51 parallel of N.L., and the Indians immediately north of the visited line, who have waited patiently, would have reason to be dissatisfied, if the procedure of the Com<sup>rs</sup> were to be changed as to pass over them to visit first a small tribe of 20 or 30 men, 130 miles to the north, and who

have no special influence, and it may be said, no special grievance compared with aggrieved tribes north and south of them.

Such a change in the work of the Com<sup>rs</sup> would be unintelligible to the Indians, or intelligible only as evidence that the Indians can get what they like by clamour and impatience, which idea every act of the Com<sup>rs</sup> hitherto has tended to discourage.

If the Indians from Lytton and off from it to the eastward, there are, between Lytton and Williams Lake, numerous Indians, as good as any in the country, and ruled by some fine old chieftains, such as Chiloseelt and others.

These chiefs with their chief men have visited my camp several times, and the method of work and movements of the Com<sup>rs</sup> have been carefully explained to them and been approved by them.

In particular, last year, I explained to Chiloseelt that there were questions between the Com<sup>rs</sup> as to water for the Indians which required time for discussion, and that, consequently, the Com<sup>rs</sup> was going elsewhere for a half a year where water questions did not arise.

This chief who, in his country, is as influential as Chiloseelt in the southern interior, said there was nothing unreasonable in this, and the other chiefs who were with him took the same view.

These Indians, namely at Clinton, Lebel's, Fountain, Big Bear,

Cause Creek, Dog Creek, Alkali Lake, are accordingly waiting patiently and trusting that there will be no change in the regular steady work of the Com<sup>tee</sup> pursued now for three years, but that they will be dealt with when their time comes, and not passed over for others, an act which would wound their confidence in the Com<sup>tee</sup> and their self pride.

For these, in my judgment, in future seasons, the programme of the Com<sup>tee</sup> for the coming season (provided the Com<sup>tee</sup> arrange water question), should be to begin between Lytle and Lillooet and work up past Lillooet and the Tominian to Clinton, thence down to Big Bar Creek and up the Fraser Valley, past Cause Creek, Dog Creek, Alkali Lake, swinging then to Lake La Hache, Williams Lake, and on to Soda Creek, Alexandria and Invermere.

The small tribe at Williams' Lake would thus be embraced in the season's work and taken in their turn as usual.

This programme is advisable for secondary reasons connected with the climate and the Commission.

Work can probably be undertaken a month earlier about Lillooet than at Williams' Lake or in the districts where these more northern Indians will probably want land.

It would cost much more to take six or seven months

supplies to the neighbourhood of Williams Lake than to the neighbourhood of Lytle.

It might be said - why not go straight to Invermere, and work south? The question of climate in spring comes in here, and another important question also, the effect on the Chilcats. I should not wish to go within speaking distance of the Chilcats in the early part of the year and then work away from them.

It would be much better to approach them from the south, and arrive at a time of the year when it would be evident to them that the Com<sup>tee</sup> could not do much in their country this season. I could then establish friendly relations with them and make a promise for the succeeding spring. If passed in the summer work up the Fraser, it might perhaps be possible to begin the Chilcat work towards end of this season, but this is hardly to be expected.

It is believed that the Chilcat work will be the most arduous yet undertaken by the Com<sup>tee</sup>.

If nothing can be done in Chilcat this year, the Com<sup>tee</sup> in retracing its steps, might turn off at Lillooet and adjust land matters among the Indians along the old road down to Douglas coming out at Harrison River mouth.

These Indians number about 1000.

I could not define the reserves at the mouth of Harrison river while working in New West District last year as the mosquitoes



done the Indians away, and most of the land was under water.

The above may be too extensive a programme, considering the difficulties likely to be encountered throughout, but I may remark that the fall of the year when the water is low, is the time when some work can best be done on the Elbow-Douglas road.

These then being the seasons for the proposed programme, it may be asked what reason exists for beginning work at Williams Lake instead of following the established order of work among the Indians?

Upon this I have no information, and can only surmise that the reversal of established procedure is the result of the letter of the Williams Lake Chief published in the newspapers, and of communication which Mr & Mrs. Kinsley, in a letter to the 'Colonist' newspaper Nov 6 Dec 1877, says that he and others have, in my absence in the field, been forwarding to the Dominion Govt.

The position of the Williams Lake Chief and tribe is a hard one as they have no reserve, but for many years past they have been permitted to cultivate the land of the mission, but that is now said to be nearly exhausted. The year has been a dull one for all in the province, and these Indians were not employed by the white people as usual, hence on the approach of winter they became impatient, fearing that they might be

without the necessities of life. A respectful statement of facts to the Govt, with a request that some help might be given temporarily, would seem to have been the proper course under these circumstances, and this request should have been made through Father McQuinn, or the local magistrate to Mr Lenihan, and would then have come in a regular manner before the authorities.

In my opinion the action taken in putting the chief Williams' complaint into a sensational letter and publishing it, and the action of Mr McKimley in writing an incorrect letter to the Chief Williams and in also publishing such letter, was irregular and ill advised, calculated to confuse the mind of the Indians, and to embarrass the very grave work now in hand.

It should be borne in mind that other tribes, more numerous than the Williams Lake people, and whom it is, apparently, proposed to pass over in favour of the last named, are as a result of conversation with me, patiently waiting the action of the Govt, though some of them have, as Mr Laing Benson advises me, not more than half an acre to each adult, and are therefore presumably as ill off as the Williams Lake people, who at least have had the Mission lands to cultivate, such as they are.

I am not arguing against a visit to the Williams Lake Indians. The people have my deep sympathy, and under

the ordinary programme for the year will have attention in their turn.

What I respectfully submit is that it has been shown in the foregoing that there are very strong reasons why the well understood procedure of the Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup> should not be changed in the coming season, merely because a small distant tribe has, naturally, no doubt under real suffering, but also, I must think, under bad advice, taken a course which other equally aggrieved tribes in the district, who have been in direct communication with the Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup>, have not taken.

With respect to the communication which Mr McKimley says that he and others have made on the Williams Lake case to both Com<sup>tees</sup>, I cannot offer any comments thereon, not knowing their contents, but probably I may venture to say that they could not, as outsiders, have any information as to the procedure of the Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup> as to its relation to and communication with the Indians, who they visited or unvisited, or as to the particular steps which the work had reached in the Interior, and how that work might be affected by visiting a small tribe out of its turn.

They might also, in fairness, have inquired (1) whether the Com<sup>tee</sup> could do useful work in that district without help from the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup>, as regards the water question - and (2) whether the Com<sup>tee</sup> had any authority from the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup> to work

in that district

St. Robert Macdonald, Esq.  
Commissioner.

For enclosing  
letter see  
vol 179

Indian Res Com<sup>tee</sup>  
British Columbia

9 Feb 1880

Memorandum on the question in Mr. VanKoughnets letter to Mr. Sprunt of the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov 1879 "whether the former Indian Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup> of which you were one did not allot reserves to all of the Indians on both sides of the Straits of Georgia from Victoria to Comox, and, if so, what was the reason for your doing this work, or part of it, at least, over again, as you would appear to have done."

(1) It is the fact that the former Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup> did allot Reserves to all of the Indians on both sides of the Straits of Georgia from Victoria to Comox. See Appendix A & B, but it is not the fact that the present Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup> has done the work, or any part of it, except as hereinafter mentioned, over again.

2, The accompanying map will probably be the best means of showing where the work of the former Reserve Commission ended on the Coast, and where the work of the present Reserve Com<sup>tee</sup> began, during its late visit to the Coast.



3, The Appendices C and D and E show the reasons why the present Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> began at the Shiammon district, namely, (in short)

Because the former Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup>, much to the disappointment of the Indians, were unable to visit Shiammon but crossed to Comox and went southward along the east side of Vancouver Id.

All the Com<sup>rs</sup>, nevertheless, joined in requesting the Privy Coun<sup>cil</sup> to withhold lands in the Shiammon and other districts (where the present Commissioner has lately been working) pending the return of the Com<sup>rs</sup>; as soon as possible to adjust land matters in those districts.

The Provincial Coun<sup>cil</sup> did not attend to this request but sold lands close up to the village - thus creating a difficult question between the Coun<sup>cil</sup>, and a necessity for the Com<sup>rs</sup> visiting the district, and reporting on the case, or finding a means of compromise.

14, Because these Indians sent messages to the Gov<sup>rn</sup> by their own people and by the Catholic Bishop, begging that they would not be forgotten.

15, Because in the latter end of 1878, the patience of these Indians was exhausted, and Dr Powell and Mr Walker (see Appendix F) on learning that the Indians were protecting themselves by seizing the saw logs of loggers in the

district, determined to communicate the facts to the Com<sup>rs</sup> to be dealt with at the earliest opportunity, on Mr Spence's return from the Mainland.

16, The Com<sup>rs</sup> long before that time, was well aware of the necessity, and, accordingly, <sup>after finally visiting the district</sup> went there, when the inability of the Provincial Coun<sup>cil</sup> to arrange irrigating questions made it temporarily inadvisable to continue work in the interior.

17, It illustrates some of the conditions of the work of the Com<sup>rs</sup> that the Com<sup>rs</sup>, on thus proceeding to do what was necessary and what he had been asked to do, was blamed and informed, without any reasons assigned, that to visit Shiammon would do more harm than good, and that he ought to go to the arctic interior, though the water difficulty there was well known.

It is impossible for the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> to be in two places at once, or to be guided by inconsistent recommendations. Considerations of expense no less than the effect on the Indian mind, and many things not obvious to outsiders require a steady course of action.

The foregoing with the Map, shows where the present Commissioner began work on the Coast, and why it began at Shiammon.

It is not obvious in what the idea could have originated that in doing the present Com<sup>rs</sup> was doing work

over again, seeing that the former Commission never was at that spot, nor at any place north therefrom, where the present Com<sup>r</sup> has worked lately.

Perhaps it may have arisen from a visit which Mr Sprout paid to Oyster Harbour - a place dealt with by the former Com<sup>r</sup> which inadvertently, owing to some fault in their copies of the Land Office Records, included the whole presumption of Mr H R Fox within the Indian Reserve, and the fact was only discovered when Mr Ennis went to survey the Reserve. It then became necessary for the present Com<sup>r</sup> to revisit Oyster Harbour to adjust this unfortunate matter between Mr Fox and the Indians. On the idea of so doing work may have arisen from my having called at Valdez Id., where the Com<sup>r</sup> Surveyor bungled the Survey, causing an interminable correspondence with Capt. Wake respecting which I should have to ascertain the facts. But it does not seem necessary to lengthen this memorandum by offering remarks on hypothesis.

The facts are stated above, which it is hoped embrace the information desired.

J. G. M. Sprout  
Com<sup>r</sup>

#### Appendix A

Extract letter Indian Reserve Commissioners to the Provincial Secretary 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 1876

"From Burrard's Inlet we would propose to go to Howe Sound which is looked upon as a home by many of the Burrard's Inlet Indians; thence, if the weather permitted, to Jarvis Inlet, where we understand there are some timber cutting questions between white men and Indians. . . . . The wet weather will probably not set in so soon on the East Coast of Vancouver Island as on the Inlets on the mainland coast, and we would next propose to cross direct to the East Coast of the Island, and continue work at such places as might be found convenient."

#### Appendix B

See Joint Commissioners letters from Jarvis Inlet and from Com<sup>r</sup>, Dec 1876. See also Commission Report with plans and descriptions sent 21<sup>st</sup> March 1877.

#### Appendix C

Extract from Commission Report sent 21 March 1877

"The industry of the men is manifested in a very useful and profitable way, and by the millowners on Burrard's Inlet is duly encouraged. Last year we were informed, they supplied 1300,000 cubic feet of saw logs, for which they received, delivered in the water adjacent to the places where cut, at the rate of \$3<sup>00</sup> p.m. being the price paid also to white men prosecuting the same business."

"To encourage this industry and in accordance with a wish expressed by the Chiefs the Commissioners assured them that they would recommend the Provincial Government to grant them a special



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" privilege of timber cutting on the West side of Queen's  
" Reach from the Hymacchin reserve at the head  
" down to Point Patrick  
" With a view to this, indeed, the Commissioners had  
" before leaving Victoria, asked for the reservation  
" temporarily, of this tract of land, a request which  
" was at once \*acceded to by the Chief Comm<sup>r</sup> of  
" Lands "

\* Note This proved to be an error.

Note: The above refers to the Jarvis Inlet Indians, north of whom the former Commission did not go. The Shiammon and Klahoose &c Indians are immediately to the North, and the extract is to show the nature of the timber questions which so much interested all these Indians, and to elucidate, in part, what follows.

The former Reserve Commission turned before reaching the Shiammon Klahoose &c, but at home they saw some of these Indians who were there trading and they heard of the people's wants generally from Mr Rodella, the local J.P. and others.

Accordingly, on getting back to Victoria and learning that their next trip was to be to the interior, and that the further prosecution of coast work must be delayed, all the Commissioners joined in the following letter.

#### Appendix D.

Victoria 27<sup>th</sup> April 1877

(Copy)

Chief  
" It would, in our opinion, be well if  
" the Provincial Government reserved Harwood  
" Bay, and other Islands in the Gulf of Georgia  
" until the land claims of the Klahoose and  
" other neighbouring Indians are settled, also all

174  
the Islands in the Fraser river lying opposite to the  
" Makqui Village and near the S.W. of Township 17  
" New West District

" Looking to the number of Indians in Barclay  
" Sound and that neighbourhood, and also at Salmon  
" River which flows into Johnstone Strait, we recommend  
" similar action in reference to land at the head  
" of the Alberni Canal, from that place to the mountains  
" and also the land in the Salmon River Valley.  
" The Alberni land is within the railway belt.  
" Judging from letters which have reached  
" us from Mr Duncan J.P. and others, it might, further,  
" be advisable, pending the settlement of Indian  
" land questions, not to give any right to lands  
" on the Nass and Skeena, except subject to the  
" occupation rights of the Indians."

Respectfully,  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Chief Comm<sup>r</sup> of Lands & Works  
Victoria  
" A. S. Anderson  
" J. McKimley  
" G. W. Sproat

#### Note

The Commissioners proceeded in 1877 to the Interior, and left over the above coast work and also the New Westminster District for future adjustment, much to the disappointment of the Indians concerned.

In Spring of 1878 the question of the seasons programme, came up and for pressing reasons, the Commission determined to go again to the Interior, but messages reached Mr Sproat from the Shiammon and a deputation of 6 chiefs came from the New Westminster District, strongly protesting against the Commission again going past them.

When Mr Sproat did start, the Indians, as advised in his letter to Ottawa 25<sup>th</sup> May 1878 came long distances to see him at New Westminster and

were waiting at every landing place on Fraser River as he passed up in the steamer.

Though at work in the Interior, Mr Sproat repeatedly wrote to the Govt Agents and to the Provincial Government, on the subject of the lands further east and at New Westminster District Indian, but it is probably unnecessary to copy these letters.

Sworn in the Chief Commissioner of lands dated, In Camp, books Ferry, 17 July 1878 Mr Sproat said.

"I also crave reference by way of reminder,  
"to the letter of the Indian Reserve Commissioner 27  
"April 1877 asking you to reserve temporarily certain  
"lands in places unvisited by the Commissioners.  
"The Klahsore Indians are very anxious about  
"Harwood, Savary and Kotles Islands, and came to  
"New Westminster to meet me on the way up to  
"express their anxiety."

### Appendix F.

On returning from the 1878 campaign in the interior, Mr Sproat received the following letter from Dr Powell which, with its enclosure speaks for itself.

Copy

Indian office Victoria  
12 Oct 1878

Sir/ "I have the honour to enclose copy of  
"a letter from Mr Rodello, the Government  
"Agent at Comox, relative to anticipated trouble  
"between the blahamin (Shiammon) Indians  
"and white men who are engaged in cutting  
"timber in the vicinity of the Indian Villages.  
"I have conferred with the Hon. the Attorney  
"General on the subject, who considered it best  
"to leave the matter in abeyance until your  
"return to this place" Yrs, J. M. Powell

(Copy) Enclosure in above letter

Comox Oct 31 1878

Dr Powell

Sir/

I am now to inform you that on the  
20<sup>th</sup> day of inst I went across the Gulf of fenged  
over to visit the Shiammon Duke of Indians which  
the priest of New Westminster was there to which he  
told me to be sure to inform you with the trouble  
between the Indians and some white men there  
cutting logs for the sawmills. The Indians said  
distinctly "Now Mr Rodello as you are the Govt  
"Agent here, and you have always been our best  
"friend, we now depend on you that you will  
"inform Dr Powell, our Agent of this matter  
"and hoping that he will settle this. If not  
"we will protect ourselves. Also this day 3  
"canoes have arrived here from Klahsore  
"Also stating another complaint as above which  
"the Indians have seized the logs that the white  
"men have cut, and they will not allow them  
"to take the logs away, and they will wait for your  
"answer to me by next steamer to prevent further  
"trouble for these white men to cut timber close  
"to their villages."

Yours Obedly

Thos J Rodello

"The priest he also told me to write to Mr  
"Sproat Indian Commissioner, but I think  
"you will do, or see Mr Sproat yourself."

On inquiring Mr Sproat found that the Provincial  
Government had sold a much coveted piece  
of timber land close to the principal village of the



Indians, but the season was too far advanced for him to effectively examine the question, and when Spring opened the Commission as already stated, was under an imperative obligation to adjust matters in the populous District of New Westminster. Thereafter, on the earliest opportunity, he went on the coast and began at Alhammon (See map) and he must beg leave, in conclusion to say that it is inexplicable to his mind that any gentleman connected with these transactions should have written, as some appear to have done to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Govt, to say that they do not know why the Commission undertook work on the coast, or why the Commission began at Alhammon (S.S.) J.M.S.

For enclosure  
See Vol 168 to 171

Indian Reserve Commission  
British Columbia - Victoria  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1880

Sir/

In further reference to your letter No 16.665 of the 28<sup>th</sup> Nov as to whether the Reserve Commission had been redoubling work already done, I beg to enclose an explanatory memorandum (with map) to which I shall be glad to add any further information that may be required. The sketches and particulars of reserves which in the above letter you also express a wish to have will be made and forwarded as soon as I can get to work on that portion of the records of the seasons labours.

I am &c.

By Herbert Malcolm Stewart

L. Vancouver City  
Deputy Superintendent Genl  
of Indian Affairs  
O.H.A. &c.

British Columbia,  
Indian Reserve Comm<sup>n</sup>

Victoria 9 Feb 1880

Sir,

I have received your letter No 14.830 of the 1 Dec last mentioning that Mr Lenihan takes exception to statements in certain notes respecting the Lower Fraser Indians which accompanied the Census, and particularly to statements respecting Indian contributions for a school house at New Westminster.

In reply I beg respectfully to say that I have made no such statements, and have no knowledge of the matters referred to.

On investigation I find that the statements which Mr Lenihan criticises are contained in the notes which Mr George B. Jenkins, the Census Enumerator, has been in the habit of appending to his Census Returns, for the information of the Superintendent, and which are signed by himself and have not come under my review.

That gentleman who is usually accurate, and is well informed generally upon Indian matters, expresses an opinion that by a clerical error he has mentioned the school instead of the Church.

I have had an interview with Mr Lenihan and explained the above to him.

Yours Truly

not required to remark on statements not made by me, I may add that the capabilities of the Indians of the Lower Fraser to do a good deal for themselves are shown by the large contributions which it is said, they have made to the Church mentioned in your letter, and I trust this has been a dull year throughout the Province, these Indians, as a rule, get much employment in the salmon fisheries, and on the starting of railway works they will be no doubt more employed by the farmers and share in the general improvement of the labour market.

My impression is that at present they have not much cash in their possession, owing to late bad times and their want of continuous industry and thrift. I judge of this by having heard of some of them being compelled to draw upon old debts. The school building question however is not a question of cash but of the contribution of their labour. The Indians should certainly cut, draw and prepare the timber, and some of them might build the school house itself - the Ent funding some windows, hinges and articles requiring cash outlay.

No one would propose to have schools on each Reserve. The Reserves are scattered - Each group of Indians, so to speak, might have a school house.

At Yale the Church of England, I believe, has an Indian

school. Coming down the river, the Roman Catholics at Hope have a Church to which I think the Bishop told me the Indians contributed largely by labour, but I do not know whether the Church would permit a sacred edifice to be also used as a school.

Further down the river, the vigorous Chief Algie at Cheam would certainly build a school if a teacher were found, and the Catholic Church approved.

At Chilliwack the Indians are not very industrious, and ecclesiastically, are split-up, but for which they could certainly largely contribute by their labour towards a school.

The Indians between that place and New Westminster - say principally at Langley, Matsqui &c. are backward, and not much under Church influence; and probably just at present, would not act in school matters without some pressure.

What the Hekla Kopa miks, above Yale, of themselves proposed to do in school matters shows the possibilities in that direction.

The Indians like their children so well that proposals for the children's good form one of the best channels of influencing the people generally.

These are matters outside my Card business, but I sincerely hope that the numerous light-Indian children now of school age in this province, whose future character will be determined by the next few



year, may have favorable opportunities  
of education soon afforded them.

I am Sir

L. Van Koughout Esq  
Rep. Sup. Gen. of Ind. Affairs - Ottawa

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria July 18th 1880

Sir/

Will you have the goodness to permit Mr  
Farwell, who is employed by the Commission,  
to make some land office investigations on  
matters connected with Indian Reservations.

Yours faithfully  
J. M. Spence  
Comm.

The Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works  
Victoria

J. M. Spence  
12 Feb 1880

Sir

Enclosed please find estimate of expenditure  
for this Comm. for yr ending 30 June 1881

Yours  
J. M. Spence

J. M. Spence  
Victoria

Indian Reserve Commission

Victoria 16 Feb 1880

My dear Chiliketwa,

In reply to your letter  
of the 28 Dec I send you enclosed copies  
of the two letters from me 20 June 1879 and  
14 August 1879 which you lost in the McLean  
troubles, and I return the paper of Mr Indian  
which you sent me.

I have been much  
pleased to hear of the good conduct of  
yourself, your sons and people in the  
capture of these bad youths, who by  
breaking the law, will bring ruin on  
themselves and shame on their friends.

You have always been a good  
friend to the white people, and I quite expected  
that you would act as you have done.

With best wishes

I am yours truly

Chiliketwa  
Indian Chief  
Kongas Lake

J. M. Spence

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria 18th Feb  
1880

Sir/

As requested in your letter No. 16.692  
18th Nov last, the enclosed are sent upon  
the extract which you sent me from  
Dr. Powell's report on his recent visitation

to the Coast Tribes.

I will give a copy to Dr. Powell.

I am Sir  
Your Obedt Servant  
Sir Arthur Malcolm Stewart  
Commissioner

L. Van Koughnet Esq  
Deputy Superintendent General  
of Indian Affairs  
Ottawa

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1880

The undersigned has the honour to submit the following report on an extract from Mr. Indian Superintendent Powell's report on the Coast Tribes, enclosed in Mr. Van Koughnet's letter to 16. 692 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1879.

(By) Sir Arthur Malcolm Stewart  
Commissioner

xxx

The undersigned may state that he was a Magistrate and a large employer of both Indian and white labour on the West Coast of Vancouver Island from 1860 to 1865. The Indians seemed to be a distinct group and he gave them the name of the "Rhts" which has been retained. Having described fully the manners, character and condition of these Indians in a published volume which is in the possession of the Department, it is unnecessary to take up time by describing the

again in this Report.

After an interval of about a dozen years, the undersigned has had an experience of two seasons work on other parts of the Coast as Reserve Commissioner.

The questions of present interest suggested by Dr. Powell's report fall, naturally, under two heads—

(1)

What is it desirable to do as regards the allotment of lands for the Rhts, and (I presume) other Coast Tribes not yet visited by the Commission?

(2)

What can the Government reasonably do to improve these Coast Indians?

With respect to question 1. the undersigned thinks it well to state, in the first place, the practice of the Reserve Commission on the rougher portions of the Coast. This has been carefully considered in reference to the circumstances of the people and the probable requirements of the Government, and in so far as the undersigned has had to do with the matter, the practice followed agrees with recommendations made to him in conversation by the late Sir James Douglas.

Practice of the Reserve Commission on the rougher portions of the Coast.

1.

Visit, examine and define the principal village sites, burial places and cultivated lands.

2.

Examine the neighbourhood in order to find additional area, or areas, of culturable land which may be required now, or in the future.

3.



Find timber areas for the use of those Indians who may be likely to follow the industry of "Logging" - e.g. Shiammons, Kiahoses, Le Shell, Luchataws &c.

14.

As regards fishing and hunting stations, which could only be visited at a disproportionate cost, get the Indians to mark them carefully on a map and have the same recorded at the Land Office - such places though essential to the Indians, not being at present worth a visitation by the Land Commission and not requiring survey.

These rules have been followed, the only difference between the former and the present Commission in the matter having been that the undersigned has given a more <sup>extensive</sup> scope to rule 14.

The undersigned thinks that in the interests of the Dominion Government the remaining work on the Coast should not be delayed until some indefinite time in the future, but should be completed at the earliest possible time.

The neglect, in time past, to adjust reserves in advance of white settlement lies at the root of the whole Indian Question. These Indians, who, in the words of Sir James Douglas (Despatch to the Secretary of State 25th March 1861) have "distinct ideas of property in land and mutually" "recognise their several exclusive possessory rights in certain Districts" have never surrendered these rights nor is it proposed to compensate them for such surrender.

At this date, 20 years after the establishment of the Colony, no reserves have been assigned to them, nor indeed is there any legislation in

force in British Columbia which provides reservation of lands for the Indians.

Some obligation therefore rests upon the Dominion Government not to delay indefinitely the allotment of Reserves in unvisited districts upon the Coast, particularly as it is not a question of any large extra expenditure, and does not, so far as the experience of the undersigned goes involve the difficulties which Dr Powell apprehends.

The undersigned thinks that he could have completed the whole Coast work this year, had it not been necessary for the Commission to go to the interior, and there could have been a reduction of \$4<sup>00</sup> a day in the expenditure.

The remark made by Dr Powell "if a Commissioner were to go among them and change this system" "and tell the Indians what they were to have" "and what they were not it is apparent that trouble would certainly arise, unless we had our own regulations ready to be enforced and to supersede theirs" suggest what does not agree with the experience on the Coast of the undersigned. The people, while pointing out to the Commissioner as a matter of historical information, the limits of the old "Country" claimed by them, soon get hold of the idea that the land is the Queen's and not theirs, and that they may hunt on unoccupied lands anywhere, and they understand the security given by an allotment by the Queen of their favorite village sites and resorts.

The undersigned does not understand what regulations are referred to in the above extract nor how in connection with an assignment of land Reserves any question of supercession

can arise. The defining of the lands must prevent trouble.

Sir James Douglas as long ago as 1857. in regard to the Quakwaka and also Quakwaka people - through Coast Indian inhabitants an unpromising Coast - caused to be done what is objected to above - he told these Indians what they were to have and what they were not to have, and the undersigned has not heard of any difficulties consequent upon that transaction. The arrangement was effected by a money payment, and the difference between that policy of Sir James Douglas and the action of the Reserve Commission is that the latter explains to the Indians that the equivalent must now be sought by them in the advantages of a settled Government preventing tribal wars, and a special administration of their affairs by officers appointed to advise and help them - no cash will be paid.

The following agreement show what Sir James Douglas did.

(Here follows extract from "Papers relating to Indian Land Question" by the whole of page 11. with the exception of the last four (4) lines.)

The Shamshoo and Kachooes, lately among the dirtiest and meanest of the Coast Indians, not only quite understand the policy of the Government in allotting reserves, but wish the lands to be subdivided. Notwithstanding an exception that may be cited in the case of Metlakatlah, which the Commission has not visited, the undersigned knows by recent conversations with missionaries of different churches, that their work cannot be well,

or systematically pursued until the Reserves are allotted. One of these gentlemen visited localities with the Commissioner and informed him that his work had been hanging back until the Land Reserves were allotted. This would seem to be reasonable, for a Missionary Society could hardly be expected to put up buildings until they definitely knew that the Indians would have lands near them. The fact that this has been, nevertheless, done on some parts of the Coast simply shows that, in pursuit of a great object, some of these societies have been content to run risks.

Certain places on the Coast, at present unvisited, are rightly said by Dr. Powell to require visitation to allot lands - Nass, Fort Simpson, Metlakatlah, Alhemi. White men have applied to purchase lands at Nass, Fort Simpson, Queen Charlotte Island &c. and the good land at Alhemi has been sold.

In view of this fact and the presence of a missionary who is doing good work on Queen Charlotte Islands, that section should also be attended to, and there is said not to be much land to choose from.

The undersigned thinks Quatino might also have been named, for the local names there may any day be worked, and experience has shown how difficult it is to overturn at the Land Office any record obtained by a white settler where only Indians are concerned on the other side. At St. Johns Canal, one of the places proposed to be left over the undersigned believes that white men some time since made application to purchase lands after surveying them at considerable cost.

Assuming that these places have to be visited



their position on the Map becomes important as regards the question being now considered.

It appears to the undersigned, that, in visiting those places, the Reserve Commission would be brought so near the portions of the Coast proposed to be left unvisited - either at the necessary stopping places, or in passing them in the course of navigation, that it would be a pity to leave a great work incomplete, as regards portions easily visited, and not containing a numerous Indian population.

The accompanying Map may be useful in bringing this out clearly. In the absence of a census, the undersigned will not hazard an estimate of the number of Indians proposed to be left unvisited, but they are not numerous - probably not over 2500.

The consideration should not be overlooked that the Indians do not like to be passed over and are disposed to resent any partial treatment - more especially on the part of the Government. It is - possible that, for instance, the Queen Charlotte Indians might not be pleased were neighbouring Indians in that quarter attended to, and they not, and unless the Ahts are changed since the undersigned was acquainted with them, they would not like that a third of them, as proposed, should be attended to, and the rest left without attention.

Whether the work should be done by the Commission or by the Indian Superintendent is a matter of detail. If the Indian Superintendent undertakes it, he, in fact will become the Reserve Commission, and the same expense will be incurred.

On the other hand while undertaking the work - of the Commission, that officer must neglect his own duties, which, viewing the condition of the Indians on the Interior and upon the Coast, will

require immediate and undivided attention for many years to come.

As regards the second head mentioned at page 3, namely, What can the Government reasonably do to improve the Coast Indians? the opinions, in general, of the undersigned have been stated in various letters, from time to time. Numerous Agents are not required. There should be a Coast Agent always on the move in a vessel, and the Superintendent also should should frequently be on the Coast. The influence of the Government, judiciously exercised in this way, would be very great. There need be no attempt to enforce among the people any arrangements for which they are not yet suited, nor to disturb their habits and pursuits. The undersigned is not aware that any proposals of that nature have been made. An Agent could help them in many ways - in suggesting new industries, or in improving industrial means in vogue at present. He could discourage potlatching, whiskey drinking, and other vices which are ruining the people. Their humanity might be stimulated so that for instance, they would not as the undersigned has seen them do, turn a sick mother out into the snow to die. Every Missionary with whom the undersigned has conversed on the subject expresses regret that so little has been done, and a hope that, in its proper sphere, the Government will do its part to help their efforts. That the Coast Indians are not wild fellows who can be managed only by gunboats is shown by the fact, that even without much effective attention from the Government, improvement is visible in

many quarters

few portions of the Coast are more wild than Jarvis Inlet, where the Se-shells live, or some part of the Li-ammon, Nahoose Country to its north. Certainly none of the Indians were dirtier or meaner. They are now moral, industrious and well behaved and it is interesting to hear of their various ways of making a living, by fishing, hunting or by logging. This change is largely owing to the Catholic Church, but there is no resident Missionary. This shows that these Coast Indians are capable of, and suggests that with the Government Agent and the Missionary working together greater progress would have been made. These examples are good, and it is easy to see signs of improvement creeping along the Coast. Even some of the Esquimaux said they wished to do like the Li-ammons. A few of the latter have a head or two of stock, and one of them asked the Commissioner what he thought of a piece of land for sheep. With these things going on, and Missionaries at work, or about to work in different places, it would seem to the undersigned to be very important that the Government should, in its proper sphere, do what it can to aid progress.

Respectfully,  
Walter Malcolm Sproat  
Commissioner.

P.S. The letter of Mr Anderson which Dr. Powell mentions, did not accompany the extract, and the undersigned has not had an opportunity of offering comments on its contents. The tenor of its contents, however, would seem to be opposed to Mr Anderson's deliberate official action, when a Commissioner, for he assisted in allotting reserves in Jarvis Inlet - perhaps the wildest part of the Coast - and joined in asking the Provincial Government to make temporary reserves

in other portions of the Coast, pending the return of the Commissioner. These new reserves were not heard of until lately.

(Sey) J.W.S.

Victoria, New Brunswick  
23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1880

Read M. J. Roberts  
Leominster

My dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> I find, on inquiry, that the land of the late Mr Bonn on Kuper Island is not sold and consequently no one can have any right of occupancy.

By calculation Kuper Island

about	2209 acres	(Acre)
deduct Bonn's	100 "	2109
Left Island		75
	Acres	2184

I enclose copy of mine to you of the 7<sup>th</sup> with copy of sketch then enclosed, at time of writing yours of 18<sup>th</sup> February you do not seem to have received these.

Few farming men would like to live on an Island among Indians, so the real value of the place cannot be expected by the vendors. They ask \$1000 and \$100 additional would have to be paid to throw forth the land at \$1<sup>00</sup> per acre. The improvements, clearing &c must have cost much more than that sum. Mr Bonn told me he had worked 10 years on it, and he is said to have worked hard.

It occurs to me to mention that as the



Dominion Surveyor of Indian Reserves has surveyed the claim, a purchase would save cost of resurvey, as the Provincial Government doubtless would take his notes - A brown front I believe costs \$5.00

Yours  
(Signed) J. M. Sproat

J. R. Cornwall

Victoria 28<sup>th</sup> Feby. 1880

Sir

In further reference to the memorandum on the general principles of land assignments for Indians in the Interior dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 1880 and sent through you to Ottawa and more particularly in reference to the important question therein discussed as the gross area required for Cattle, I beg to enclose copy of an official letter from the Magistrate at Lytton to the Governor dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 1885 showing that at that time, when the bunch grass generally was not greatly eaten off, 30 acres per head were necessary, in the opinion of Mr. Chapot of Lytton and 50 acres per head were necessary in the opinion of the Messrs. Cornwall.

Much of the land assigned by me is inferior to the land at Hat Creek, so far as I can ascertain, and if the above were taken as a standard the average of most of the Reserves would require to be increased but the whole question is one of much difficulty, and among numerous conflicting opinions, I have done the best I could on my own judgment in

each case. Will you oblige me by sending this additional information to Ottawa as the question may be then discussed.

I am Sir

Your Obedt. Servant  
J. M. Sproat

J. W. Powell Esq M.A.  
Victoria

Extracts from letter to Hon<sup>ble</sup> A. N. Reid  
dated Lytton 25<sup>th</sup> July 1885

Signed P. H. Reid

"Mr. Chapot a butcher and Cattle owner at Lytton says that he estimates one hundred head of cattle would require 3000 acres of good bunch grass land to keep them in condition and not injure the pasture"

The Messrs. Cornwall say that one beast requires 50 acres of the land they apply for in Hat Creek in order that no deterioration may take place in the grass

British Columbia,  
Indian Reserve Commission.

Victoria 1<sup>st</sup> March 1880

Sir,

I send herewith for your information memoranda as to various reserves as per annexed list.

Though these memoranda contain 260 pages of manuscript, there are other documents, connected with the main land reserves visited by me, which the Department

should have copies of, and which it would take a copyist at least a fortnight's work to copy.

The former Commission did not transmit to the Govt any specific information as to their actions other than that contained in their formal Minutes of Decision of and journal of their movements, but having found a lack of information in the Colonial Records as to all Indian questions which it had to examine, I have from the first kept full notes, and am thus able to supply you with the above information.

When acting as joint Commissioner I sent you my reports from various places on the Coast visited in the winter 1876 & 1877 to be copied if you thought fit, and afterwards sent to the Minister, and these I think you have in your office.

I propose next for Mr. McKen this week to be engaged in preparing the formal Minutes of Decision for Nicola & Kootenai in such shape as to enable them to be sent to the Prov. Ex<sup>ts</sup> for Land Office examination of field notes and transference of Reserves in due course.

Thereafter the New Westminster District will come naturally under examination and you can tell me whether the bare Minutes of Decision will suffice for your information or whether, as to that District, you would wish the same full information as that furnished for the interior reserves - and the same as to the Coast District.

This

involves simply a question of time.

I should have mentioned that I have voluminous rolls and sketches as to the Reserves for the Lytton Indians proper and Cooks Ferry and Bonaparte Indians not yet formulated into a Minute as the whole adjustment is hung up owing to water questions.

Having received from New Westminster the statement of the movements of the Kootenai when I was absent from her, I send you a list of her whole movements which, as I have said, do not show the movements of the Commission. That will appear in the regular reports.

I am Sir

J. W. Powell Esq M.P.  
M.C. &c

Your obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>

G. M. Sprunt Esq

### List of Reserves

- 1, Upper Nicola Indians - commonly known as the Shuswap
- 2, Lytton Indians proper - their grass at Hamilton Ck
- 3, Nicola, Mamet-Inds - commonly known as the Kootenai
- 4, Coldwater Indians
- 5, Lower Nicola Inds - commonly called "mixed Inds"
- 6, Lower Nicola Inds - commonly known as "Potatoe garden Inds"
- 7, Lower Nicola - special Reserve near ditto
- 8, Thompson River - Kootenai Inds
- 9, Lytton Indians - Skuppat subgroup
- 10, Kanaka & Eskimo Flat Inds
- 11, Boothroyd Indians
- 12, Boulton Bar Indian
- 13, Sparzenn Inds
- 14, Upper Similkameen Inds



J. R. C.

Victoria 1 March 1880

Sir

I beg to hand you a letter of 13 Feb 1880 from Mr. Charters, Nicola Valley, to me, but which is for your attention, and I also annex copy of my reply to Mr. Charters of this date.

The matter is dealt with in the Memo as to "Cold Water Indians" sent to you to day.

His interference with the water assigned should be permitted.

I am Sir

J. W. Powell Esq. M.D. }  
 Mr. Supdt. Victoria

Grounds & Co  
 & McSproul

Victoria J. R. C.

1 March 1880

Sir,

In returning the enclosed, namely, copy of letter from settlers at Douglas Lake 13 Jan 80 to Mr. Lushan and a letter to same of same date from Mr. Murray, Douglas Lake. They to day that you will find the question of commonage at Douglas Lake dealt with among other matters in the Minute as to Douglas Lake reserves. sent to you to day.

I may add that it seems to me that the Indians should not take upon themselves to drive off white men's cattle. They should complain to the agent if any obstacle to their enjoyment of the pasture is interposed, or if the area is being overgrazed.

J. W. Powell Esq. M.D. }  
 Mr. Supdt.

I am Sir &c  
 J. W. Powell Esq.

J. R. C.

Victoria 1 March 1880

Dear Sir,

Dr. Powell will in future be the proper Officer to whom you should address yourself as to Indian question after I have adjusted the lands. In your case I have expressed the opinion that the Indians at Jeyaskai place should have the prior claim for 20 miles and I would not advise you to raise any question as to this but endeavour to get on quietly with your Indian neighbours, who, if old matters were gone into, would appear to have, in my opinion, much to complain of.

I am &amp;c

J. E. M. Stuart

Mr. Charters Esq. }  
 Nicola Valley }

B. C. J. M. C. Victoria  
3rd March 1880

Sir,

In reference to the trespass of the Chinamen upon the land of the Snyne Indians at Comum Bee on the right bank of the Fraser above Lytton, I beg to enclose a sketch showing in red the piece of land on which the Chinamen last year was permitted (under the arrangement I made) to work as a miner. It is said that he has, since, with the help of several other Chinamen, worked upon the land northward from the piece marked red shown as a bench along land in the sketch & perhaps they have entirely spoiled it. I much wished the piece for cultivation & it was a favour to allow the Chinamen to remain in the neighbourhood at all.

Yours truly  
(Sd) G. Macdonald

J. M. Powell Esq. M.P.  
Indian Dept.

B. C. J. M. C. Victoria 4th March 1880

I have received your letter of today and in reply beg to state that the Board considered that having power to assign land for the absolute use of the Indians, they had power also to assign it for their limited use, when the interests of the white settlers required such limitation.

The Pro. Gov. were duly advised of the Commissioner assigned at Kamagan in 1877 and the reports of the Board were I believe laid before the House of Assembly and no objection has ever been made to their action that I have heard of.

In addition to the authority derived from both Govts under the original agreement of the 6th Jan 1876 I had special authority for the whole Yale District under a Pro. Gov. Order in Council 26 April 1878 of which I enclose a copy.

Wishing nevertheless to have the views of the Pro. Gov. on so interesting a question as that of commonage, I wrote to them from Kootenai Ferry 17th July 1878 but no notice was taken of my letter.

There is looking to the near future no other adequate wintering for the Indians in that quarter but to make the land a reserve and not a common would materially damage if not ruin the settlers in the immediate neighbourhood in some way.

A division of the area giving the Indians a portion for wintering was not feasible owing to the nature of the ground and the



impossibility of fencing.

My decision was the same as in the Chippewagan case except that I did not undertake to say what white settlers should enjoy the pasture.

It stated however similarly that if the Commisary arrangements cannot be carried out the land then to be a Reserve in which event the Department might, at Douglas Lake, save the interests of the settlers by granting grazing privileges.

The Commisary however in the best way in my judgment and I should think an agent of the Dept might intervene to carry out what was agreed upon.

I asked the dep Gen to state what kind of conveyances would be required from the Prov. Gov. for reserves in general and at the same time mentioned commisary and the question was referred to the Crown Lands Dept which stated that "letters patent" would be required for the reserves, and that the Commisary should be set apart as such by the Prov. Gov.

He Powell Esq. M.L.A.

Ind. Lib.

I am or  
to J. M. G. G. G.

J. R. C. Vict. 4 March 1880.

Sir

I enclose a short memo on the case of the Chippewagan who has intruded on the Reserve at Cameron Bar.

In answer to your enquiry of today I think if he has not ceased to act that Mr. Thomas Seward is the only J. P. near Dutton

but except on an information laid before him and a guarantee as to expenses I doubt if he would act in the matter.

The Indians probably have already complained to him, and I may respectfully suggest that you interchange telegrams with him on the present position of the matter, or as the weather is very severe and Mr. Seward lives several miles out of Dutton you might telegraph to William Michel Indian at Dutton paying for the return message.

Mr. Geo. Baron of Dutton is not a J. P. unless lately appointed but he collects taxes for the Prov. Gov. and is a sort of half Gov. agent or correspondent. He could make enquiries, but the cheapest way would be to ask the Indians by telegram or letter. As Michel's wife can read writing. If the Chippewagan are still trespassing there I may suggest that in the first case of ejectment it might be well to take legal advice.

The first question will be whether the Prov. Gov. proposes, in all such cases, to appeal to the ordinary tribunals of the country or whether you will act under the power which the Ind. Act gives you particularly clause 12.

The Indian Act except clauses 25, 26, 27, 28 which are suspended by Proclamation is in force here and I am advised is superior to any Prov. legislation.

On being satisfied of the fact of intrusion your warrant sent to George Baron

or Thos. Earl or other "literate person" willing to act (there is no sheriff near Lytton) would be sufficient (see Clause 12) and be a very simple way of acting. But I imagine you would have to guarantee expense there being afterwards recoverable from the party removed.

I to K. M. L. M. D. I am de  
Ind. Inf. S. J. M. L. M. D.  
L. M.

Mem on the case of the intrusion of Tuk-yon, and it is alleged, other Chinamen on Indian lands at Burrer's Bar on the right bank of the Fraser, about 14 miles above Lytton.

These lands have not been conveyed from the Province to the Dom<sup>n</sup> and were only assigned as Ind. lands by the Res. Comm<sup>r</sup> in July 1878. The lands are within the railway reserve.

In buying off the reserve it was necessary to include a piece of ground on which Tuk-yon, a Chinaman was mining. This person having made a ditch and incurred expenditure had a moral claim not to be summarily dispossessed hence the arrangement was made that the piece of ground on which he was working should be included in the Ind. Res. but that Tuk-yon should be permitted to continue mining on that piece of ground and on that alone until it was exhausted. A map was given to Tuk-yon showing in red the piece of ground to which this permission

extended. The idea was that by not summarily removing him, he might get back his expenditure. It was very clearly explained to Tuk-yon in the presence of the Indians, that he would incur legal penalties if he worked outside the specified ground, and in particular and at the special request of Alce, an influential Stye Indian, Tuk-yon was warned not to touch any part of the bench northerly from where he was entitled to work, known as Alce's bench, Alce having determined to cultivate that bench.

It is alleged that immediately after the above arrangement was made, Tuk-yon got several other Chinamen and having work on the permitted ground, attacked Alce's bench, and probably has already in the course of mining spoiled the bench for agricultural purposes, to the loss and disappointment of the Indians.

If these allegations are true the act of Tuk-yon considering especially the mining shown him is a gross outrage and I suggest that he and the others be summarily ejected from all parts of the reserve and forced under the Indian Act.

The Reserve is unsurveyed but its boundaries are stated in the annexed extract from the decision of the Res. Comm<sup>r</sup>:

S. J. M. L. M. D. 4 March 1880

The boundaries of the Ind. Res. at Burrer's Bar are as follows. From the right bank of the Fraser River at the south



end of Cumberland that line west 30 chains  
thence line south to strike Nigongait Point  
thence down right bank of said creek  
to Fraser River thence along right bank  
of Fraser River to initial point

S. J. McPherson

Incl. this document

to Commissioner

Indian Reserve Commission Victoria

5 March 1890

Sir

The Indians wish to remain  
where they are on Alert Bay, on  
the spot where the Admiralty Chart  
1860 shows they had a village or house.  
They had a graveyard where it  
now is, 15 years ago at least.

I think they can be  
affected without any undesirable  
interference with your station or  
allocated land by drawing the lines  
of the reserve as shown on the  
enclosed sketch which please to  
return by the "Lionel" with any comments  
which you would wish to make  
or I will do the best I can to suit  
all concerned.

The Indians will require  
firewood and access to fresh water stream  
but beyond these residential requirements  
and the graveyard site there need not  
be any interference with your expected  
privileges under your existing lease.

The Indians also wish for a piece  
of land on both sides of the Nunkish  
at its mouth, I respectfully of their  
demands, I think, viewing the number  
of different tribes who get their salmon  
from that river. It is probable that  
the Nunkish may by & by be a missionary  
or industrial centre, the assignment of  
land there would be prudent from  
the point of view of the future, &  
the old village site <sup>of course</sup> will be  
included.

These arrangements, I would hope,  
will practically have the effect of leaving  
your present relations with the  
Indians undisturbed.

I am Sir  
Yours obedt Servt  
J. M. Shroob  
Com.

A. W. Huson Esq  
Alert Bay

Victoria 6 March 1880

Sir,

In answer to your letter of today I may mention that the lands of the Ojibwa Indians on which the Commission are said to have intended are not surveyed and cannot in consequence be conveyed by the Province to the Dominion.

If the Dominion Govt cannot interfere to protect Indian lands during the interval between their assignment and their survey many of these lands will be greatly damaged or ruined more particularly pastoral lands.

The work of the Commission owing to the great progress lately made it is so ahead of the surveys that your letter suggests to me that provided Mr. Bullock has come to a decided arrangement with the Dom Govt as regards water questions and the Okanagan and Kootenay matters an additional party should be sent out. say one party to work in N. West Dist, a second from Yale up the wagon road, & a third Spallumcheen Okanagan & Kootenay. The Dom Land Dept, I should think would probably wish to have the boundaries of the Ind lands known as soon as possible within the railway reserve.

Yr. Servant

I am

Supt.

to Mr. Moffat

P.S. I suppose that in the coming session of the Local House an act will be passed conveying the Railway lands to the Dom Govt. A considerable number of assigned but unsurveyed Ind Reserves are within these lands, and as regards these I imagine though they will have to be surveyed that the general conveyance of the whole land might suffice without particular conveyance.

for the indebted Ind. Res.

M.H.

Victoria

9<sup>th</sup> March 1880

Dear Sir

Please say to Cassin in reply to his letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> which has only today reached me, that I have given Dr. Powell a sketch of the land assigned by me to the Indians at Stave River and asked him to do what is necessary to stop intrusions thereon.

Yours truly

J. M. Sprout

J. Allard Esq  
Langley



Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria 9<sup>th</sup> March 1880

Sir

The apportionment of the expenditure of \$ 7883.00 from 1 Aug. 1879 to 31 Jan'y 1880, for which on their completion, you will have vouchers in due course, is (subject to a precise analysis which Mr. Blenkinsop on his recovery from illness will make) approximately as follows.

Transport	Per Day
Cannier's Pay	16. 11
Census Taker & Seal assist.	10. 00
Cook	4. 00
Explorer	1. 33
Interpreter	3. 00
Food & Board	1. 00
Landre's disbursed by Mr Blenkinsop	5. 00
in Petty Cash. Charts, Medicines.	3. 18
Legal advice &c. &c.	

\$ 43.62

I have been every day hoping that Mr Blenkinsop would be able to resume his duties, but he does not improve, and I have therefore this morning gone through the vouchers to make a rough apportionment with the idea that the Department at Ottawa might wish to have the information in order to answer any questions in The House, and for this reason I now send it to you.

I am Sir

Your Obedt Servant  
Signed L. M. Sproot

J. H. Powell Esq  
Indian Superintendent

J. H. B. Victoria 9<sup>th</sup> March 1880

Sir

In reply to your note of today, enclosing an original letter from Mr. B. Rogers to you of 11<sup>th</sup> March 1880, and asking my views on the proposal therein contained I beg leave to return the letter and to enclose a memorandum on the subject.

To Rev. L. M. S. D. & Mr. Sproot  
Lieut. Genl. Victoria

J. H. B. Victoria 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 1880

Mean on Mr. B. Rogers proposal to exchange a portion of his land at Courichan for a portion of the land. Res. there.

1. The land known at Courichan contains good land but is considerably cut up by water courses, and I think the Res. will require fully all the <sup>available</sup> ~~agronomical~~ land within the present line when subdivisions take place.

2. The lake from which the Indians get water is partly within the reserve and partly on land held by Mr. Rogers, but perhaps the best most producing piece of land is on Mr. Rogers land. As to this however I have no personal information, for the Indians did not mention the matter at any formal or other interview with the Commission when at Courichan, but only afterwards when the Commission was at Saanich, and Mr. Moberg was then deputed to return and look at the place and some other places respecting which such information was required.

Mr. Moberg could not with a pocket compass decide whether Mr. Rogers house was on the line or not. Mr. Green's formal survey shows

that a small part about 4 feet of the house is on the reserve, but so small as hardly to amount to an intrusion.

Mr Greene reported 5 Sept 1878 as follows.

"I have also to report that Mr Rogers new dwelling house is on the reserve S19 R & Shawanigan Dist. The end of the house being 6 links within the line. There are no other improvements within the Reserve but the house which I value at \$175 exclusive of lumber on the ground.

Again on the 15 Oct 1878

"With regard to Mr Rogers house, that gentleman is now residing in Victoria and I did not see him. His neighbor Mr Deyan informed me that he and Mr Rogers surveyed the line between the reserve and Mr Rogers claim with a pocket compass & that Mr Rogers put up his house within the line as surveyed by them. It is merely a difference of 50 links in a distance of 26 chains between the two surveys.

Under the above circumstances I do not know how the Indians might view the proposed change, supposing the Dept to be satisfied that they could safely surrender a portion of the available Bowichum land. The Commissioner did not make new boundaries at the portion of the reserve in question but confirmed the old reserve then with boundaries to be ascertained by the Dominion Surveyor.

My views as to the general inexpediency of tampering with the Bowichum Indian land adjustment are too well known to require repetition.

S. McSpreat  
Commr

S.H.B. Victoria 10 March 1880

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>r</sup> to which I have not been sooner able to reply. I enclose a sketch which will show you the Indian lands near Capt. Jamieson's and your own.

There is a former dispute with Mr John Walker and Mr B Nelson as to having from the Govt a piece in line of his former claim.

B. Brown Esq  
Agony Landing  
New Westminster

I am Sir  
Yours  
Commr

S.H.B. Victoria 9 Mar 1880

Sir

I beg to enclose copy of a letter received by me (only today, though it is dated 21 ulto) from Bassimin the Langley Chief complaining of an intrusion upon land assigned by the Reserve Board - as Ind. Land at Starn River.

It is not stated where the intrusion has taken place. I enclose for your information a sketch of the Ind. Land at Starn River and also at the neighbouring village of Whanook. The Langleys & the Whanooks are closely allied & profess to use portions of their lands in common.

I am Sir  
S. H. B. Esq M.D. S.  
Land Sup.



R. L. J. R. L. Victoria 15<sup>th</sup> Mar/80

Sir

In view of the Dominion Land Department in the provinces being desirous at an early date of disposing of Dom<sup>n</sup> land & water privileges, I beg to bring to your notice that within those lands there are unsettled questions respecting the land & water privileges of Indians which I should think should be adjusted, if possible without further delay to prevent embarrassment.

(1) The Reserve Commission having in mind the possibility of Railway construction in B.C. have examined the Indian land question along the whole line from Burrard Inlet to about 50 miles up the N. Thompson River from Kamloops and have made every possible effort to adjust matters, but the prolonged inaction of the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup> with respect to questions requiring their cooperation & more particularly that of water for irrigation has prevented a final adjustment in some places.

(2) The country having been thoroughly examined & the requirements of the Indians being known there is nothing to be done that would require much time provided the Prov. Gov. would cooperate, but, pending a final adjustment of Indian land question it would be undesirable that the Dom<sup>n</sup> Gov should alienate lands & particularly water rights within a radius of say 10 miles from the junction of the Bonaparte & Thompson rivers or along both sides of the Thompson river between the Bonaparte river & Hooker Ferry or within a radius of 10 miles from Lytton.

(3) At Yale the final adjustment has been temporarily left open until it is known what portion of the existing reserve within the town will be required for railway purposes, & pending a decision on that point the unoccupied lots in the suburbs of the town or townsite on the opposite side of the river from Yale have

been temporarily reserved by the Government.

I beg to enclose copy of a letter which I wrote on the 13 Oct 1879 to the Sup. Gen. on the subject of arranging with the Indians for the passage of the railway through their lands in matters which if railway construction is to be undertaken, will require attention soon.

Yours truly M.D. I am &c

Ind. Secy

J. M. Macdonald  
Comm.

R. L. J. R. L. Nicola 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1880

Memorandum of arrangement in the matter of the questions between Lower Nicola Indians and Paul Johnston Gellie who holds the Lot 115 Group 1 that was held by Robert Gellie and before him by Augustus Williams Sandbroke under a prescription record by the latter dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 1870 which lot includes the Indian settlement known as Tootel formerly a favourite Indian residential and cultivated place, occupied more particularly by the family of Peach now deceased (brother of the present chief Mawassabum) who was deprived of the place without compensation.

The question presented peculiar difficulties from the history of the case, the very strong feelings of the Indians with respect to it, and from the land having passed through the hands of several owners, but finally the following arrangement was come to, as the only practicable compromise.

M. Gellie will convey to the Sup. Gen. of Ind. Affairs for the use of the Indians

the for sample of a plot of ten acres of good land with frontage on Lower Nicola River, mostly capable of being irrigated, selected by the undersigned and by the Indians within Lot 115 Group 1. and at its southwest corner as shown by the following tracing from the Departmental Plan.

Tracing

Mr. Gillin also will give the Indians the use of his ditch for conveying their water to irrigate the above land, the Indians keeping the ditch in repair, and further will give for the use of the Indians for 25 years from this date the privilege during April and May and no longer in every year of entering upon the meadow land on the shore of Nicola Lake forming the southern boundary of Lot 115 Group 1. for the purpose of digging, collecting, and removing in their old way and in such quantities as the Indians may require the natural root called *Wet* a root one of their articles of food.

The Indians are not to have any right or interest in Mr. Gillin's ditch or ditches, and they are to keep the ten acre plot of ground strongly fenced, and the houses and surroundings neat & clean, so as not to be an unsightly object on Mr. Gillin's farm, and with respect to the meadow land, the Indians are not to encamp thereon nor take dogs or animals upon it, nor break down Mr. Gillin's fences.

In consideration of Mr. Gillin carrying out his part of the above arrangement, the undersigned will submit to the Indian Department, the aid

of the Indians concerned that a detached portion of 500 acres of Indian Reserve, containing pasture as shown by the following tracing from the Departmental Plan should be granted free of cost to Mr. Gillin and will respectfully recommend the arrangement for approval.

Tracing

J. R. L. B. B. Victorin

22 March 1880

Sir,

In reference to para 24 of Nicola Mount Field Minute I beg to enclose Mem<sup>o</sup> of arrangement in the matter between Lower Nicola Indians & Paul Johnston Gillin

J. R. L. B. B. Victorin

Ind. Sup<sup>t</sup>

I am &c

Yours faithfully  
J. R. L. B. B. Victorin

J. R. L. B.

Ind. Sup<sup>t</sup>

Sir,

Victorin 25<sup>th</sup> Mar /80

In a separate letter of this date I beg to hand you the necessary documents to enable you to obtain a conveyance from the Rev Geo. of the portion of the Reserve laid off in 1878 which have since been surveyed namely (1) Minutes of Decisions (2) Survey Plan (3) Deed Field Notes, & in the present I now beg to enclose the papers required by yourself, namely, (1) The Minutes of Decisions for the above, copied into a book, with marginal notes referring to the pages of the Field Minutes where the several reserves and any particular questions connected with them are mentioned. The date of the decisions are mentioned in each case as regards both land & water. (2) The survey plan surveyed



1 to 10 together with a Reference Map which will show the locality of the several reserves. (3) The surveyors original field notes which it has not been thought necessary to have attested on oath as required in the case of the duplicates sent to the Hon. Secy. The Bureau of these other Indian dealt with in 1878 was sent to the Indian Ind. Sup. at New Kent.

If on examining these papers you find that you require anything further connected with them. I will furnish you with whatever may be in my power. I am &c.

*Wm. L. G. M. G.*  
*Ind. Sup.* (P) *Wm. L. G. M. G.*  
 P.S. The Hon Secy as the provincial Govt was informed on the 20th May last was of opinion that the reserves should be conveyed by letters patent (Crown Grant) & that boundaries should be set apart by Order in Council but I do not know in what form it is necessary to secure the water privileges of the Indians. W.L.G.

W. L. G. M. G.

Sir,

Feb 20 Mar 1880

Herewith I beg to hand you the Minutes of Decisions for that portion of the work of the Bureau done in 1878 which has since been surveyed, and I also hand you survey plans numbered 1 to 10, also a Reference Map for the same and the surveyors field notes (duplicates) duly attested on oath by them. These documents have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Provincial Land Amendment Act 1879 and the resolution of the House of Assembly, and the last survey with respect to the gazetting of land res. and they are sent to you instead of being sent direct by the

Bureau to the Hon Secy in accordance with our conversation on that subject. You will notice that almost for the first time in the history of Indian Land Allotment in this Province a detailed statement of water required for irrigating Indian lands is contained in their Decisions. It may be necessary to consider whether some Pro legislation is not required with respect to irrigation water for Indians not being persons entitled to hold land under the Land Act, they would seem to be precluded from securing water under clause 48 of the Land Act 1871-2 as against the legal owner of a white settler. I do not know what could be set up except a supposed prior equitable right on this part of the Indians similar to the right which they may have to land for their sustenance and use within the province water being necessary in cultivation over a great extent of the country. The subject is not specifically mentioned in the agreement as to the Ind. Land Question between the Hon Secy to 6th Jan 76 & the Bureau has not been able to obtain any governmental declaration or action thereupon, but there is no reason to doubt that the Hon Secy is at least morally bound by that agreement to do what is necessary to secure effectually to the Indians the water necessary for their agricultural and other reasonable uses otherwise the assignment of arable lands for the Indians would have no meaning. I do know. W.L.G.

Ind. Sup.

S<sup>9</sup>

*Wm. L. G. M. G.*  
 Bureau

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

March 30. 1880

Sir,

In reference to a notice dated 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Gazette stating that the land of Mr. P. L. Anderson, Lot 425 Group 1 among others, has been surveyed, and that he should prove up his claim, I beg to state that the Dominion Surveyor informs me that Mr. Andersons line encroaches upon the Indian Reserve at Hamilton's Creek at a part of it which has been an old Indian settlement, and I have therefore to ask that you will be good enough to note the fact and not permit the issuing of papers for land which as an Indian settlement could not at any time have been legally preempted or acquired, and which also is part of the Reserve assigned in 1878.

I am Sir, Yours truly  
J. H. Pouché Esq  
Ind. Sup. Victoria  
The Hon: The Ch. Com<sup>r</sup>  
Land Works, Victoria  
Head Office, Ottawa  
J. H. Pouché Esq  
on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>  
Sir

In answer to your letter of Saturday I beg to say that there has been no delay on my part in regard to the accounts.

They cannot be closed until I am placed in funds for that purpose, and the owner of the schooner and Mr. Farrell

complain that they cannot get the money that is due to them, and I hope there may be no delay in placing me in funds, when the amounts can be paid and the accounts closed.

Not being able for the above reason to close the accounts, I send you statements with vouchers as per enclosed list, and also a memorandum on field allowance as you requested, further a statement with vouchers, showing the actual sum that will have to be paid out by me on being placed in funds. This is however merely for your information, as under the existing arrangement, the loss will be mine.

I am Sir &c  
J. H. Pouché Esq  
Ind. Sup. Victoria  
J. H. Pouché Esq

Copy  
Cash Statement with vouchers Nos 1 to 7 in triplicate showing \$796<sup>00</sup> due me, Nos 2 and 3 unpaid and being fully paid,

Memorandum Field Allowance

Statement of items of Expenditure, with vouchers in triplicate Nos 1 to 81  
78.79.80 & 81 unpaid  
balance shown as due \$759.31.

Memorandum on Field Allowance

The field allowance principle has existed from the starting of the Commission, and was adopted by the Dominion Gov<sup>t</sup> on the proposal of the Provincial Gov<sup>t</sup> (see letter No 8133.21 June 1877)



(from the Deputy of the Minister of the Interior  
to the Com. Com<sup>rs</sup>)

On the reorganization of the Com<sup>rs</sup> in March 1878, see correspondence brought to a point by the letter of the Deputy of the Minister 7567, 25 March, the application of the principle was extended, so as for \$30<sup>00</sup> per diem to include all expenditures, at the risk of the Com<sup>rs</sup>, for the Indian Reserve Commission proper, that is to say, the party, not including the expense of the Attendant Surveyor which was properly a Survey expense, and not including the expense connected with the Census-Taker which was regarded as a Departmental expense. No other arrangement was made on the reorganization of the Commission, and accounts and audits have been in accordance.

But, some reduction in total cost appearing to be possible, Mr. Spruit, in letter 23 Aug<sup>o</sup> 1878, made an offer to undertake that, for \$12<sup>00</sup> per diem more than the \$30<sup>00</sup> instead of the larger sum than \$12<sup>00</sup> per di which had been incurred in respect of the Surveyor and Census-Taker, he would carry on the whole work, that is to say \$42<sup>00</sup> per diem for everything in the field.

This arrangement to reduce the total expenditure was sanctioned by the Dep<sup>t</sup>. - see letters of the Deputy of the Minister 10348, 18 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1878, and 10348 14 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1878 and accounts and audits have been in accordance.

During the

first 20 months of the existence of the Com<sup>rs</sup> only ten months were spent in the field. During the next 20 months, with a single Com<sup>rs</sup>, 16 months were spent in the field work, thus, as it is only field work that counts for progress, there was, in addition to the above reduction, a saving practically of 6 months expenditure within the latter as compared with the former time.

Atk. C. H. S. 5 April 1880

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Superintendent.

Estimated Expenditure Indian Reserve  
Commissioner Mr. Columbia for year  
Ending 30 June 1881

If at work in the territories

Pay  
Ind. Re. Com<sup>r</sup> per di 10<sup>00</sup>  
Car. ass<sup>t</sup> & Census taker - 5<sup>00</sup>  
Interpreter - 2<sup>50</sup>  
Explorer in lieu of regular serv<sup>ce</sup> - 3<sup>00</sup>  
Cook - 1<sup>50</sup>  
Wood Cutter & Camp assistant - 1<sup>50</sup>  
23.50

Board

8 Men (the above 6 & 2 packers  
average ca 1<sup>00</sup> per di) 8.00

Transport

Assuming that the 3 boxes  
Animals are found fit for work

19 Riding Pack Horses ca 1<sup>00</sup> per di 19.00  
to include pay of packer & driver

Occasional Feed for animals  
during the season when grass  
is not convenient per di 1.50

52.00

From the 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31 Nov  
244 d<sup>s</sup> @ 52<sup>00</sup> per di 12,688<sup>00</sup>

Carried forward

Amount Brought forward 12,688.00

Expenditure as follows

Occasional services of regular surveyor  
in the field. Expenses of party  
baggage & stores to & from Interior  
Repairs to kitchen furniture & tent 1000.00  
Three new tents, shooting horses.  
Indian messengers - Ferris, mechanics  
Ammunition, stamps &c

In winter quarters

Pay a board of Commissioners.  
Assistant. Draftsman & Copyist.  
Office Expenses &c  
Four hr. average day 25<sup>00</sup> per di 3025.00

816713.00

If employed on the Coast

The total cost while at work would,  
provided the same schooner was hired,  
be as follows. The saving would arise  
from the principal part of the fittings of  
the schooner being available

244 d<sup>s</sup> @ 38<sup>00</sup> per di 9272<sup>00</sup>  
In winter quarters as above 3025<sup>00</sup> 12,297<sup>00</sup>

Victoria B.C.  
12 Feb 1880

J. S. H. Sprat



Ind. Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria April 12/1880

Sir,

In reference to the letter of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Ch<sup>ief</sup> Com<sup>r</sup> of Lands & Works to you of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst., handed to me for my observations thereon, I beg respectfully to state that it is not clear whether the Ch<sup>ief</sup> Com<sup>r</sup> considers the "surveys" or the "allotments" of the Nicola Reserves unsatisfactory.

If the surveys are objected to, I have to state that they have been made, as required by the Provincial Gov<sup>t</sup> in conformity with the Local Amendment Act 1879.

If the Ch<sup>ief</sup> Com<sup>r</sup> letter refers to the allotment of the Reserves as unsatisfactory and not to be accepted, I beg to say that in allotting them I acted as much for the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gov<sup>t</sup> as for the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup>, which latter, by Order in Council dated 26 April 1878 approved of the recommendation that my decisions as Res. Com<sup>r</sup> should be final.

The Reserves, moreover, are suitable and not excessive, and strict attention has been paid in all cases to the position and requirements of both whites and Indian settlement.

I may remark that the Ch<sup>ief</sup> Com<sup>r</sup> has expressed the above opinion after a rapid examination, and so far as I know, without having before him, a Census of the Indians or the information necessary to form a conclusive judgment.

The voluminous documents connected with these

Reserves were sent to his office on the 9<sup>th</sup> and his letter to you is dated the 10<sup>th</sup> inst.

I shall be glad to give any additional information respecting these Reserves.

J. W. Powell Esq M.A.  
Ind. Sup<sup>t</sup> Victoria

I am Sir your  
S<sup>t</sup> & McSpence Com<sup>r</sup>

J. R. C.

Victoria 16 April 1880

Sir

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. on the subject of the monthly accounts for salary and m<sup>on</sup>ey and in reply beg respectfully to state that in charging for services while in Victoria, I follow the practice of the Government in reference to the accounts of my predecessor the Dominion Commissioner, Mr. Anderson, to whom that item was allowed without question, and I do trust, too, on reasonable grounds whether the agreement between the Governments in its spirit, or the nature of the case be regarded. The work which a Com<sup>r</sup> has to perform is very different from triennial operations which can be abandoned or resumed at will at certain hours; it is intellectual work, and however much one might try to withdraw one's thoughts entirely from secular matters from 12 O'clock on Saturday night until 12 O'clock on Sunday night, it is not easy to do so, and I think that any construction of the agreement based on that assumption would be a narrow one, particularly when the Com<sup>r</sup> has never followed

merely lost hours, but proceeded to work day by day as the exigencies of the Service required.

The allowance in Victoria was sanctioned, after a full statement of the case, in letter from the Depy of the Min. of the Interior to the Hon. Comr on 21 June 1877 No 8133 I B as per original under herewith sent for your information, and the accounts and audits have been in accordance. The basis is simply the charge made or that would be made at the House to travel.

The Comr considered they had authority themselves to pay Mr Blenkinsop's board in the same way that they arranged for the remuneration of subordinate officers, and they considered that 1 1/2 dollars a day was a reasonable rate. Your inquiry, I presume, does not refer to whether Mr Blenkinsop's board should be paid or not, but should that be the case I would respectfully point out that this officer, whose services have been of great value in pushing on the work is not overpaid while in the field, and it would not be reasonable to reduce largely his remuneration during the comparatively short time that he is not in the field, and when his work is not less, nor less advantageous.

The effect of not paying his board would be to reduce his net pay to \$2 1/2 a day which you will doubtless agree with me would not, in his case, be suitable.

The Board allowance charged for Mr Farwell is an error, and I thank you for calling attention to it. When a regular surveyor was attached to the Comr his board, as in

the case of Mr Blenkinsop, was paid, but it has not been the practice to pay board for persons temporarily employed.

I am Sir &c  
J. W. Powell Esq M.D.,  
Indian Super Victoria,

Victoria 27 April 1880

Sir

I beg to say that the Chilliwack Instructions for Surveyors are completed except copying, and that district would occupy a survey party for about a month.

I am proceeding with the other portions of the district of New Westminster preparing first the instructions for surveyors, and intending then to embody the whole notes I have to make at New Westminster District in one minute, in a book, instead of making separate Field Minutes for the separate groups.

The Gale portion I cannot rightly finish without some information as to railway works wants.

Various questions may arise with respect to Indian Reserves at Chilliwack & Sumas and Mr Derby's scheme and I have asked Mr Farwell to separately prepare a special Report thereon for your information & reference.

I am Sir &c  
J. W. Powell Esq  
Ind Super  
Victoria

I am Sir &c  
Sd. G. McSproul.



Indian Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria

27 April 1880

Sir,

In further reference to the letter of the Hon. The Attorney General of the 13 inst addressed to you, and reported on by me the following day, with respect to alleged discontent at Alert Bay, and particularly in reference to a second letter from the Hon. The Attorney General dated 24 inst, which you have just handed to me for report, in which latter letter the statement is made that the statement "originally made" were founded on and "in substance borne out by the written" "statements of Mr. Hudson and the verbal" "statements of Mr. Spencer" I have the honour to call attention to the full letter sent to you of all that portion of Mr. Hudson's letter to Mr. Spencer which refers to Indian matters, an extract which, though in a private letter Mr. Spencer has permitted me to make.

Mr. Spencer informs me that the above letter is the only one which he had received from Mr. Hudson on the subject, and that he himself could not profess to know anything about the matter.

It was the same letter which was left at the Attorney General's Office for his perusal, and its contents show decisively that the statements made in the Attorney Genl's letter of the 24 inst now submitted to me for report are as incorrect

as those made in his former letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

J. W. Powell Esq.

Indian Super<sup>r</sup> VictoriaI am Sir y. r. v. v.  
St. L. McPhersonInd. Res. Com<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria 28 April 1880

Sir,

In reference to the subject of surveys of Indian Reserves mentioned in our conversation yesterday, I respectfully submit the following observations -

The general attitude of the Provincial Govt. makes it desirable that, if surveys are proceeded with, the work should be done as rapidly as possible, and this seems also necessary in view of the contingencies of railway construction within the Province.

It is unfortunate that owing to circumstances known to you, it is probably undesirable to prosecute surveys in the District from head of Okanagan Lake to the frontier though that District was visited by the Reserve Commission as long ago as 1877.

Nevertheless I think 3 parties could find work during the five months of the ensuing season in the following places -

New Westminster District.

One party to go immediately to Chilliwack - that being a comparatively thickly inhabited

portion of the District, where squatters are taking up land with a view to actual settlement, and where also Mr Darby's dyking scheme affects matters.

This locality may be affected also as regards convenience of survey work by the summer frosts, and possibly by the advent of the mosquito pest, so that the work should be undertaken at once, and the Surveyor having finished Chilliwack and Sumas might then work either up or down river, as the height of the water or the mosquitoes might dictate. It would be a pity I think to prescribe his course rigidly, seeing that Steamboat travel on the Lower Fraser is likely to be frequent this year and cheap, and if the mosquitoes are as bad as they were last year, a party could not give good work for the expenditure.

The Provincial Govt, with respect to Islands assigned on the coast, have agreed to take them as per Admiralty Chart, but I think a survey of the Islands assigned for Indians in Fraser River will be desirable as in traversing them a few lines may be run across to determine quality and acreage. And how much liable to overflow or washing for the information of the Department.

The number of small Reserves on the Fraser will make the duration of the work longer in proportion to acreage than the bigger work of last year, as a good deal of time will be spent in moving camps about, and in travelling from

one to the other - the upstream canoeing, in particular, being difficult and expensive.

The Burrard Inlet Reserves are not yet surveyed, so that, on the whole, there is a very considerable amount of work to be done in surveying the New Westminster district without going to Howe Sound, and perhaps it may be found that this party No. 1, now being spoken of, need not be expected to work higher up than Murderer's Bar Flat on right bank of Fraser a few miles below Hope - the Indian "Skowallach" tribes place.

The No. 2 party, designed to work up the wagon road, might perhaps connect at above place with No. 1 party, and work up River, away from No. 1 party's work.

The Commission would probably have to visit Gale with him to come to a final arrangement in respect to the requirements respectively of the Indians around Gale and the Railway Authorities in conference with the latter and the same at Spuzzum. Both of which adjustments were made conditionally on railway requirements which now, I presume, can be definitely stated.

Then the No. 2 party entering as it immediately will do, the country in which water questions for irrigation arise, and having to cross and recross the Fraser, possibly in rapid water, and in very hot weather, will find only possible to make slow progress, and if the No. 2 party gets up to Cameron Bar 10 or 15 miles above Lytton on right bank of Fraser



the scene of the Chinaman's question  
Fuk-Yu. I think it will take up much  
of the season.

A No. 3 party might  
resume where Capt. Semmett left off in  
1878 at Adams Lake, and do the Theswap  
Lake and Spillumcheen Reserves which will  
take some time, and then if open questions  
could be settled, he might go on with  
the Okanagan (head & foot of lake, reserves &c.,  
or if these were not settled he could  
get back easily by water from Spillum-  
cheen to Savona's Ferry, and work on  
the now partially but I hope then to be  
wholly adjusted Bonaparte and Cook's Ferry  
Reserves.

This No. 3 party might be  
charged with completing the Nicola Reserves  
unsurveyed, namely, those of the Coldwater.  
A good way to do these  
would be to go to Spillumcheen up the  
Nicola Valley, and in passing Coldwater  
Stream, to stop and send a man up  
the valley to see if Paul's Basin were  
free from snow; if not, then the surveyor  
could bring the Coldwater Reserves into  
his year's work, as high water, the convenience  
of moving, the advance of the season might  
dictate.

Adams Lake and Paul's basin  
are the only two elevated places in the pro-  
gramme sketched for No. 3 party.

J. W. Powell Esq M.D.  
the Super. Victoria

I am Sir &c &c  
Sd J. W. Powell Com<sup>r</sup>

# Indian Reserve Commission

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1880

Sir

In reference to letter to you dated  
19 inst. from Mr Robert Todd about an exchange  
of land at Truckeeam, I have no personal  
knowledge of the Indian Land adjustment  
there, as it was effected by Messrs. Anderson  
and McKinley before I joined the Camp.

In the journal I notice the  
following.

"To these people the Commission  
confirmed their old Reserve already surveyed,  
containing 342 acres, and in addition assigned  
a tract on Sea Island, adjacent, containing  
some 80 acres of rich meadow land for hay-  
making and pasture"

This addition is  
described in the Minutes of Decision as "lots  
8 and 9 north west corner of Sea Island"

The old Chief Semelthino  
went to New Westminster to ask me to try  
to get the decision of the Commission amended  
by including a strip of timber land behind  
the Reserve, as he said the Reserve was  
deficient in wood.

I do not suppose the  
Indians would wish to surrender their grass  
land on Sea Island.

J. W. Powell  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

Sd

I am Sir &c &c  
Sd J. W. Powell

## Indian Reserve Commission

Victoria 30 April 1880

Sir

I beg to hand you herewith copies of letters from Bazil or William, the Chief of the Okanagan Indians (head of Lake), dated 12 March last, also an undated letter from Isaac, an Okanagan Indian, both on the question between these Indians and Mr O. Keefe.

I beg to enclose also copy of my letter of 26 April 1879 to the Superintendent General, in which I forwarded a letter from William to him, upon the same subject.

Chellikeeta has communicated with me several times on the same subject.

I do not know what to say in reply to these letters.

J. W. Powell Esq. }  
Ind. Sup<sup>r</sup> Victoria }

I am Sir or a  
J. G. McPherson

J. R. Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 4 May 1880

Sir

In reference to what is known as the Spatsum Flat dispute, I beg to enclose for your information copy of Field Minute Book, and of my letter of 18 August 1878 to the Chief Comm<sup>r</sup> of Lands.

I have repeatedly brought this case to the notice of both governments.

The nature and the length of time during which efforts for redress have been unavailingly made appear to require decisive action in the interest of justice, and to end a dispute which has caused great bitterness on the part of the sufferers.

J. W. Powell Esq. Ind. }  
Indian Superintendent }

I am Sir or a  
J. G. McPherson

Indian Res Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 4 May 1880

Chilliwack

Sir

Mr. McMillan, the Clerk of the Municipal Council at Chilliwack, wishes to buy a strip of the Skulkayn Reserve at Chilliwack River for the purpose of getting a straight road from the main road to his barn.

I enclose copy of his letter to me 24 April 1879 and of my reply 26<sup>th</sup> idem.

I may say that I examined the question on the ground with the Indians, and they consented to dispose of, not an acre but about half an acre, and they left the price to me which I estimated should be \$2500 for the half acre, but that was before the rise of property consequent on railway construction.

As Mr. Millan is sure to apply to you again, I directed Capt Jammett to mark on the ground and on his notes the piece which thus may be disposed of, so that when the time comes you could act without further examination.



It might appear to be the simplest way to cut the piece off now and get the money, but the difficulty is that any <sup>land</sup> cut off a Reserve by me goes back to the Province under the existing Indian Land agreement, and Mr. McMillan would then have to acquire the strip from the Provincial Govt. - The Indians not getting the money consideration for surrendering the land which induced them to consent.

I therefore imagine the strip will have to be conveyed in the regular way from the Department to Mr. McMillan by and by.

With respect to the disposition of the money, I do not know the Departmental usage, but I may mention that the Skulkayn Indians themselves have subdivided their Reserve, and that an Indian, "Suk. sah. mit" or Charles in April 1879 procured the division from which the strip would be cut off, and perhaps the people would expect him to get the money.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Superintendent

I am &c on  
Sd. G. M. Sprout Com.

Victoria 4 May 1880.

Sir,

I beg to enclose sketch of a portion of the Skulkayn Reserve, showing, in red, the portion of land (about 1/2 an acre, which has to be marked on the ground and in your notes, in case the Department should sell it to Mr. McMillan, who wishes to get more direct access to his barn.

Cop. J. M. Sprout  
Ch. M. Sprout

Sd. G. M. Sprout Com.  
Ind. Superintendent

# Indian Reserve Commission

Victoria 5 May 1880.

Sir,

Having noticed that the House of Assembly has directed that the Government should print papers connected with the Indian Reserve adjustments, I beg to mention that the Provincial Govt. has not referred to me for report a petition which I have told has been sent by settlers at Nicola to that Government with respect to Indian Reserves there.

I think that it will not be right to print that petition without also obtaining from me and printing with it the comments which I am prepared to make upon the subject for the information of the Government and the House, and I therefore beg that you will obtain for me the opportunity of making these comments.

I am &c on  
J. W. Powell Esq. Ind.  
Indian Superintendent

Sd. G. M. Sprout Com.

J. R. Com.

Victoria 6 May 1880

Sir,

In reference to the petition sent to the Dom. Govt. from settlers in Nicola respecting Indian Reserves, I have been informed that a similar petition was sent to the Prov. Govt. and I shall be glad, if you will cause the Prov. Govt. to be furnished with a copy of my report made to you on the petition that was sent by settlers to the Dom. Govt.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Superintendent

I am &c on  
Sd. G. M. Sprout Com.

Victoria 8 May 1880

Sir

At an interview with Messrs. Mr. Lullway and Harris to-day with respect to Chilliwack Reserves, I explained all matters to them, and I think satisfactorily both as to the assignment of lands, and as to the circumstances in which, from local knowledge of places and persons, I conceive the resolution of the Municipal Council originated. Will you be good enough to say if you wish me to report upon the enclosed (Letter from Mr D Mc Millan to you 27 April 1880) to enable you to reply thereto.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Supd.

I am a r r  
Sd. G. M. Sprout.

Victoria 11 May 1880

Sir,

I beg to enclose my Report on the Chilliwack Municipal Council's resolution contained in the letter of Mr D Mc Millan to you, 27 April last, (herewith returned), and I further enclose a copy of the Report which I shall be glad if you will send to the Prov. Govt., as Mr Mc Millan states that he also had addressed that Government on the subject.

I am Sir,

Yours obedt Servt  
Sd. G. M. Sprout  
Comm.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Supd.  
Victoria

J. R. L.

Victoria 11 May 1880

Sir,

Referring to mine of 28 ult. as to surveys, I beg to suggest that Mr. Mohun should survey the reserves at Kailoie instead of Capt. Semmett, as he had conversations with the Indians respecting their lands, and lives there, and as there are a few questions which I could not completely adjust as the land was several feet under water.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Indian Superintendent

I am Sir or r  
Sd. G. M. Sprout

Ind. Res. Comm on  
British Columbia

Victoria 10 May 1880

The undersigned has the honour to submit the following report on a letter dated 27 April 1880, from Mr D Mc Millan, Clerk of the Municipal Council at Chilliwack to J. W. Powell Esq. M.D. Indian Superintendent, on the subject of Indian Reserves in the Chilliwack Municipality.

It is not obvious to the undersigned what the position assumed by the Municipal Council at Chilliwack (for this year is, in passing the resolution of Council, of which the Clerk sends a copy in the above letter -

The undersigned, while at Chilliwack, consulted with the then existing Councilmen, and with the settlers, generally, in reference to the Reserves, and he had obtained a useful detailed



report on all the reserves from one of the most influential members of the Council several months before the Commission visited the place.

The undersigned, nevertheless, conforms to the request made that he should submit a few observations on the views of the Municipal Council, (for this year, as expressed in the Clerk's letter.

The Indian Reserves at Chilliwack were last marked off in the Autumn of 1868, and at that time there were about 16 settlers in what is now the Municipality.

The district has now a considerable population. The voters' list is about 80, and when the Reserve Commission arrived on the ground nearly all the reserves were so hemmed in by the farms and claims of white settlers, or by rivers, that any extension of them by including adjoining lands was not, as a rule, possible.

This remark applies to Skwah A. Skwah B. Skwah C. Shway - Kums. Kwas. a. pit. - Skwi. a. ala. Akt. sa. Qit. - Skulkayn A. Skulkayn Band Ya. Kue. a. Kwi. owa.

The only remaining Reserve, Soo. wah. lie, (or Cultus Lake Reserve) could have been enlarged, and has been enlarged from adjoining lands in order to square it up, but the land is only suitable as a poor summer run for stock, or for timber.

One would suppose that these facts should be known to the Municipal Council of Chilliwack (for this year), as they were known

to their predecessors in office who discussed the matter with the undersigned.

It might also be expected that the Municipal Council (for this year), would have ascertained the facts of the case before passing an incorrect resolution which state that "detached reserves . . . . . 'small' reserves ones scattered all over the 'country' have been assigned in Chilliwack."

A statement of the facts as to detached reserves in Chilliwack may here be made.

The Skulkayn and Ya. Kue. a. Kwi. owa reserves had to be enlarged to secure a moderate acreage per adult, and the adjoining land was free, but upon it four settlers, one of them a gentleman with a wife and six children, had squatted with, apparently, a bona fide intention to make homes.

The question of what the Reserve Commission would do in this matter created a lively interest in Chilliwack, and a public meeting, of which Mr. Wells J.P. was Chairman, was held to urge the undersigned to find a piece of land detached from Ya. Kue. a. Kwi. owa, that is to say, to urge him to do what the Municipal Council (for this year, now condemned

It was gratifying to the undersigned, after a tedious and difficult negotiation, to effect an adjustment by which the Indians were justified satisfied, and the above white squatters left undisturbed, but this involved the necessity of giving the Indians a piece of land, a piece pointed out by a Committee of white residents, detached from the Ya. Kue. a. Kwi. owa

several.

The next "detached" piece of land in the Chilliwack Indian reserves is 160 acres of grass land on the "Big Prairie". This is not for subdivision among the Indians, nor for their residence; it is assigned as hayland for all the Indians of Chilliwack - numbering over 100 men.

The Indians had not a single acre on the "Big Prairie", and considering their numbers, the general character of the existing reserves and the stock which the Indians now have, and may be expected to possess, it will not, the undersigned thinks, be considered unreasonable that they should have the little share which this allotment gives them in the natural grass on the "Big Prairie" which is so easily secured, and of such value for the preservation of stock in hard winters.

The Indians, hitherto, have been in the habit of cutting wild hay in any unfenced portions of the settlement, but this they cannot continue to do as the lands on which they continued to cut hay have been fenced.

A further "detached" piece of land is on Hope Slough. It was necessary to find some additional land for the Skwah group of Indians to make up a reasonable acreage for subdivision and in lieu of extensive portions of their principal reserve which have been, and may be, washed away by Fraser River.

The land on this additional piece is covered with timber and brush and there are several sloughs on it, also an Indian

house and old potato patch formerly cultivated by a Skwah Indian.

To find a piece of suitable land on the conditions impliedly stated by the Municipal Council, that it should not, now, nor in the future, be amongst white settlers would not have been possible.

The Indians are for good or evil part and parcel of the general population of the province, and it would be difficult to find suitable land for them that did not now, touch, or would not in the future touch the lands of white men.

Concentration of Indian lands is highly desirable for administrative reasons, especially, but it cannot be always fully accomplished - for instance, as shown above, concentrating the Ya. Kwe. a. Kani. ooc lands would have disturbed four squatters who with their families may become useful settlers.

The Skwah main reserves are on Hope Slough, and could not be enlarged for the reason already stated, namely, that they are surrounded by the claims of white settlers.

Naturally, then, the undersigned, in seeking for an additional piece of land for the Skwah group of Indians made an examination of the Hope Slough boats, as being the old locality of the people, and as the slough would afford water carriage to the main village for produce.

On what grounds the Municipal Council of Chilliwack (for this year) have formed an opinion that the "best interests" of the white people must be prejudiced in 1880 by the growing



of potatoes on the bank of Hope Slough by a few of the Indians who have been settled on the main reserves on that Slough since before the first settlement of the country, or by the possession of about 1½ acres of hayland on the prairie. By each Chilliciwack Indian, the undersigned is unable to understand.

Sr Gm Sprout

British Columbia  
J. R. Com<sup>re</sup>

Victoria 13 May 1880

Sir,

With respect to Chilliciwack please to lay down carefully on your plans the line of the 66 foot highway leading to Skippi Landing, as far as it goes through the Reserve.

The Indians have fenced to leave only 40 feet. But they are not to be required to move their fence without Departmental orders, which did not originally sanction any road being constructed.

I mention this merely for your information

Your obedt Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Sr Gm Sprout  
Com<sup>re</sup>

Cap. J. W. Powell  
New Westminster

J. R. Com<sup>re</sup>

Victoria 13 May 1880

Sir,

On conversing with the two Skwawmish Indians whom you sent to day to see me, I find that they have been sent to Victoria to find the location, on the map, of certain unsurveyed but assigned Indian Reserves on the Skwawmish River. Honesome.

The map of these reserves has, I think, been probably taken from your office, by Mr. Madam, as several East Coast Vancouver reserves lately visited by him are on the same chart, but Mr. J. W. Powell has to day made a tracing of all the Skwawmish River Reserves from the Pore River plans thereof, and this will be given to day to the Indians who return by steamer to morrow to New Westminster.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Indian Superintendent

I am Sir &c &c  
Sr Gm Sprout Com<sup>re</sup>

J. R. Com<sup>re</sup>

Victoria 13 May 1880

Sir,

Referring to conversation on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. in which you desired that Cap. J. W. Powell should survey first, the Stase River Reserve, I beg to enclose copy of my letter to that gentleman of this date on that subject, and also copy of mine of same date to him respecting the highway to Skippi Landing at Chilliciwack.

J. W. Powell Esq. M.D.  
Ind. Sup. Victoria

I am Sir &c &c  
Sr Gm Sprout  
Com<sup>re</sup>

# British Columbia

## Indian Reserve Commissions. 1878

See Covering  
letter - 216-217

### Minutes of Decisions.

In Virtue of powers and instructions from the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, authorising me to find and determine the number, extent, and locality of the Reserve or Reserves to be allowed to the Indians of British Columbia. I, the undersigned, having in each case made full enquiry on the spot, into all matters affecting the question. Whereby I declare the following to be the Reserves for the undermentioned Indian Tribes respectively.

The Date of my decision is stated in each case.

Wm. Sproat

Douglas & Nicola Lakes.

### Upper Nicola Indians.

A Reserve in Townships XCVII and XCVI, bounded as follows, the course being from the true meridian.

From a post on eastern shore of Nicola Lake at southwest corner of lot 215. Q1. east 19,166 links; thence south  $88^{\circ} 27'$  west 4,927 links thence north 4,000 links; thence west 5,012 links; thence south  $88^{\circ} 27'$  west 19,87 links; thence north  $23^{\circ} 35'$  west 8,707 links; thence east 14,28 links; thence

28 Sep  
1878

north 4,000 links; thence east 4,000 links; thence north 12,079 links; thence west 15,469 links; thence south along eastern shore of Nicola Lake to initial point.

28 Sep  
1878

A Reserve at mouth of Hamilton's on McDonald's Creek, being Lot III Group 1 Township XCVII.

A Reserve at Douglas Lake bounded as follows, the course being from the true meridian.

From a post on north shore of Douglas Lake north 48,752 links; thence west 29,000 links; thence south 16,000 links; thence west 8,000 links; thence south 12,000 links; thence west 4,000 links ( $\frac{1}{2}$  S 13 $^{\circ}$  14' E. XCVI) thence south 131,000 links; thence east 5,000 links; thence south 5,000 links; thence east 4,000 links; thence south 16,000 links; thence east 131,000 links; thence north 25,873 links; to post on south shore of Douglas Lake; thence westerly along south shore of Douglas Lake to its outlet; thence easterly along north shore of Douglas Lake to initial point.

28 Sep  
1878

28 Sep  
1878

A Reserve on Spahowman Creek (which flows from south east into Douglas Lake near its foot) bounded



as follows, all courses being from the true meridian.

From a post on right bank of Spahomin Creek north 4,000 links thence east 8,000 links, thence south 4,000 links; thence west 8,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve at Chapperson Lake bounded as follows the courses being from the true meridian.

From a post at north end of Lake, north 867 links; thence west 9,343 links; thence south 9,471 links; thence east 1,000 links; thence south 529 links; thence east 13,834 links to post on west shore of Chapperson Lake; thence southerly along western shore of Chapperson Lake to initial point.

A Reserve on Upper Chapperson Creek (about 3/4 of a mile easterly from Chapperson Lake) bounded as follows the courses being from the true meridian.

From a post near the left bank of the Creek west 1,500 links; thence south 1,000 links; thence east 1,500 links; thence north 1,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve at Salmon Lake bounded as follows, the courses being from the true meridian.

From a post on the north shore of Salmon Lake north 5,200 links; thence east 4,600 links; thence north 5,800 links; thence east 1360 links, to left bank of Salmon River; thence southerly up left bank of <sup>Salmon</sup> River to outlet of lake, thence southerly and westerly along shore of lake to initial point.

Upon the tract of land within the undesignated boundaries, except lot 360 Group 1, a right of pasturage for cattle is given for the Indians, but as as not to include the cattle of white settlers, under the opinion of the Indian Department, the land is being overgrazed & likely to suffer permanent deterioration as winter pastures. The word cattle shall extend to and include horses, mares, fillies, foals, geldings, colts, bulls, bullocks, cows, heifers, steers, calves, mules, and asses, but shall not include sheep, goats, or hogs.

If this arrangement which appears to be the best for both the white settlers and the Indians cannot be carried out, this tract of land except lot 360 Group 1 to be Indian Reserve. The courses are from the true meridian.

From a post on the north shore of Douglas Lake north 48,752 links; thence east 58,891 links; thence south 19,471 links; thence west 5,708 links; thence south 1995 links; thence west 1996 links; thence south 4,614 links; thence west 2,871 links; thence south 4,000 links; thence west 36,837 links; thence south 9,227 links; to the boundary of lot 362 Group 1 thence southerly along the boundary of lot 362 Group 1 to the north shore of Douglas Lake, thence westerly along north shore of Douglas Lake to initial point.

## Nicola and Mammet Rivers

### Lower Nicola Indians.

A Reserve near the junction of the Nicola and Mammet Rivers, to include all the land within the undementioned boundaries except dot 129 Group 1. The courses are from the true meridian.

From the north east corner of dot 128 Group 1 north 4,275 links; thence east 1,550 links; thence north 4,000 links; thence east 2,000 links; thence north 5,000 links; thence west 3,000 links; thence south 13,000 links; thence west 9,000 links; thence south 2,000 links; thence west 4,000 links; thence south 2,000 links; thence west 2,000 links; thence south 14,400 links; thence west 4,000 links; thence south 10,000 links; thence west 1,000 links; thence south 18,000 links; thence west 1,000 links; thence south 2,000 links; thence east 14,600 links to post on left bank of Mammet River; thence southerly along left bank of Mammet River to north west corner of dot 131 Group 1 thence east 4,383 links to north east corner

5 Sep  
1878

of dot 131 Group 1. thence south 8,000 links to south east corner of dot 131 Group 1 on right bank of Nicola River; thence up right bank of Nicola River to a point opposite the ~~same~~ north east corner of dot 130 Group 1. thence southerly across River to the north east corner of dot 130 Group 1. thence south  $14^{\circ}15'$  west 19,666 links to south west corner of dot 128 Group 1 thence south  $73^{\circ}33'$  east 7,725 links to south east corner of dot 128 Group 1. thence north  $46^{\circ}50'$  <sup>east 6,923 links</sup> west to initial point.

11 Sep  
1878

A Reserve near the junction of the Nicola and Coldwater Rivers bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

From the north east corner of Section 10 Township 40.1 south 7,000 links; thence east 4,000 links; thence north 3,000 links; thence east 1,000 links; thence north 4,000 links; thence west 5,000 links to initial point.

5 Sep  
1878

A Reserve at the forks of the Mammet River, about twenty five miles from the Nicola River, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

From a post on the left bank of the Mammet River west 4,000 links; thence north 5,500 links; thence east



4,000 links; thence south 5,500 links to initial point.

A Reserve near foot of Nicola Lake, bounded as follows, the courses being from the true meridian.

10<sup>th</sup> Sep

1878

From the north east corner of section 15 Township XCIV; north 12,500 links; thence east 4,000 links; thence south 12,500 links; thence west 4,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve at the southwest corner of lot 115 Group 1 bounded as follows the courses are from the true meridian.

From a post on right bank of Nicola River north along west boundary of lot 115 Group 1 2000 links; thence east 1500 links; thence south 2,100 links to right bank of Nicola River thence down right bank of River to initial point.

A Reserve near the foot of Nicola Lake bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

From quarter section post sections 29 & 32 Township XCIII north 3,000 links; thence east 1,000 links; thence north 1,000 links; thence east 1,000 links thence north 2,000 links; thence east

To be conveyed to Sept 10<sup>th</sup> by Paul Johnston Gillie see memo Page 10  
10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1878

10<sup>th</sup> Sep 1878

3,000 links; thence south 2,000 links thence west 1,000 links; thence south 1,000 links; thence west 1,000 links; thence south 1,000 links; thence west 1,000 links; thence south 2,000 links; thence west 2,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve on Hamilton's otherwise called McDonald's, back, (at its bend) bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian. From a post on steep bank above Hamilton's back, east 1,500 links thence north 3,000 links; thence west 1,500 links; thence south 3,000 links to initial point.

12<sup>th</sup> Sep

1878

A Reserve near the foot of Nicola Lake, as follows, viz:

10<sup>th</sup> Sep

1878

The north east quarter of section 25 Township XCIII and the southwest quarter of section 31 Township XCIII

This land is not to be enclosed, cultivated, or occupied by the Indians until the other agricultural lands of the Nicola Mosaic Indians are found by the Indian Department to be insufficient in area, and if this does not take place within ten years from the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1878 the above portions of land are to revert to the Province.

gm

# Hamilton's Creek, Nicola

## Lyttora Indians.

*A Reserve on Hamilton's, otherwise called McDonald's Creek, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.*

From a post on left bank of Hamilton's Creek west 14,000 links; thence south 24,000 links; thence west 4,000 links; thence south 8,000 links; thence east 15,000 links; thence north 16,000 links; thence east 2,000 links; thence north 8,000 links; thence east 3,000 links; thence north 8,000 links to initial point.

~~*A Reserve on the Nicola River about eleven miles from Spencer Bridge bounded as follows the courses from the true meridian.*~~

~~From a post on the left bank of the Nicola River west 10,000 links; thence south 18,000 links; thence east 12,000 links; thence south 4,000 links;~~

# Nicola River.

## Lower Nicola Indians.

*A Reserve near the junction of the Nicola & Spence Rivers, and east of the latter, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.*

From a post east 14,000 links; thence north 2,000 links; thence west 14,000 links; thence south 2,000 links to initial point.

*A Reserve about one and a half miles east of the Nicola River, and about twenty five miles from Spencer Bridge bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.*

From a post near a stream running westerly, and falling into the Nicola River east 2,000 links; thence north 12,000 links; thence east 5,000 links; thence south 4,000 links; thence east 5,000 links; thence south 16,000 links; thence west 12,000 links; thence north 8,000 links to initial point.





then north 1,000 links; then west 3,000 links;  
then north 1,000 links; then west 1,000 links;  
then north 2,000 links; then west 3,407 links  
to post on left bank of Nicola River; then  
northwestward down the left bank of the Nicola  
River to initial point.

A Reserve near the "Potato  
Gardens" Nicola Valley, bounded as follows  
The courses are from the true meridian.

20 Aug  
1878

From a post on bank of a deep  
ravine south 10,000 links; then east 2,000  
links; then south 6,000 links; then east  
14,000 links; then north 16,000 links; then  
west 16,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve near the "Potato  
Gardens" Nicola Valley, bounded as follows  
The courses are from the true meridian.

20 Aug  
1878

From a post east 4,000 links; then  
south 8,000 links; then east 5,000 links; then  
south 4,000 links; then west 4,000 links; then  
south 1,000 link; then west 5,000 links; then  
north 13,000 links to initial point.

Thompson & Nicola Rivers.

Nicomine Indians.

A Reserve on the left bank  
of the Nicola River about 10 1/2 miles from  
Book's Ferry, bounded as follows. The courses  
are from the true meridian.

16 Aug  
1878

From a post on the left bank of  
the Nicola River west 3,000 links; then  
north 5,000 links; then west 1,000 links  
then north 3,000 links; then east  
887 links to left bank of Nicola River;  
then up left bank of Nicola River to  
initial point.

A Reserve on the  
Nicomine Book's Ferry trail about twelve  
miles from the junction of the Thompson  
& Nicomine Rivers, bounded as follows  
The courses are from the true meridian.

13 July  
1878

From a post north 5,000 links;  
then east 4,000 links; then south  
5,000 links; then west 4,000 links to  
initial point.



A Reserve on the Micomine trail about 7 miles from the junction of the Thompson & Micomine Rivers, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13 July 1878 From a post near a small lake north 3,000 links; then east 4,000 links; then south 2,000 links; then east 1,000 links; then south 1,000 links; then east 5,000 links; then south 3,000 links; then west 3,000 links; then south 2,000 links; then west 2,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 2,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 4,000 links; then west 2,000 links to initial point.

13 July 1878 A Reserve on the mountain above the "Mudslide" bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

From a post west 4,000 links; then south 3,000 links; then east 2,000 links; then south 1,000 links; then east 2,000 links; then north 4,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve on the mountain above the "Mudslide" bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13 July 1878 From a post on the west bank of the "White Lake" west 8,000 links; then north 8,000 links; then east 12,000 links; then south 2,000 links; then east 5,000 links; then south 12,000 links; then west 8,000 links; then north 2,000 links; to initial point.

A Reserve on the Micomine River immediately above the Waterfall bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13 July 1878 From a post at the foot of the mountain on the west side of the Micomine River north 1,000 links; then west 2,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then west 2,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then east 3,000 links; then south 1,000 links; then east 1,000 links; then south 1,000 links; then east 2,000 links; then south 1,000 links; then east 1,000 links; then south 2,000 links; then west 1,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve on the left bank of the Thompson River near the 68 mile post from Gale, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13

July

1878

From a post on the south side of the wagon road south  $9^{\circ}52'$  east 1628 links; thence north  $80^{\circ}8'$  east 4045 links; thence north  $9^{\circ}52'$  west 700 links; thence east 2000 links; thence north 3000 links; thence west 3000 links; thence south 1591 links; thence south  $80^{\circ}8'$  west 562 links to post by wagon road; thence southwesterly along wagon road to initial point.

A Reserve on the right bank of the Thompson River, opposite the 67 mile post from Gale, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13

July

1878

From a post on the right bank of the Thompson River north 867 links; thence west 2000 links; thence south 1000 links; thence east 1340 links; to right bank of Thompson River; thence up the right bank of Thompson River to initial point.

A Reserve on the right bank of the Thompson River, nearly opposite the 68 mile post from Gale, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13

July

1878

From a post on the right bank of Thompson River north 518 links; thence west 1000 links; thence south 777 links to right bank of Thompson River; thence up right bank of Thompson River to initial point.

A Reserve on the right bank of the Thompson River nearly opposite the 71 mile post from Gale bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13

July

1878

From a post on the right bank of the Thompson River south 2000 links; thence east 1000 links; thence north 805 links to right bank of the Thompson River; thence up the right bank of the Thompson River to initial point.



13 July  
1878

A Reserve on the left bank of the Thompson River near the 71 mile post from Yale, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian. From a post near the right bank of Sackum Creek north 2,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then south 2,000 links; then east 1,000 links to initial point.

A Reserve on the right bank of the Thompson River nearly opposite the 72 mile post from Yale, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

13 July  
1878

From a post on the right bank of the Thompson River west 1,956 links; then north 2,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 1,000 links; then west 1,000 links; then north 2,000 links; then east 903 links to the right bank of the Thompson River; then down the right bank of the Thompson River to initial point.

13 July  
1878

A Reserve on the right bank of the Thompson River nearly opposite the 74 mile post from Yale bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

From a post on the right bank of the Thompson River west 455 links; then south 2,000 links; then east 1,339 links; then up the right bank of the Thompson River to initial point.

Nicola River.

Brook's Ferry, Indians.

16 Aug  
1878

A Reserve on the right bank of the Nicola River about seven miles from Spencer's Bridge, bounded as follows. The courses are from the true meridian.

From a post on the right bank of the Nicola River east 4,900 links; then south 8,000 links; then west 422 links to right bank of the Nicola River; then northwesterly down the right bank of the Nicola River to initial point.

# Water Privileges.

The prior right of the Indians, irrespectively of record, to take, divert, and use all the water which they require from lakes, rivers, streams, springs and other sources of water supply for the purpose of irrigating their reserves, and for milling and mining purposes, and for domestic purposes at their respective villages, houses and places of resort, and for other purposes, is declared and confirmed so far as the undersigned has authority in the matter, together with all necessary right of way for ditches and flumes and conveyance of the said water and the undersigned hereby fixes and determines the following quantities of water, as the quantities required from the undermentioned sources of supply for the undermentioned Indians for irrigation, milling, mining, domestic and other purposes; the word "inch" to mean the quantity of water that will pass through an orifice one inch square, and not exceeding two inches in length, with a constant head of six inches above the centre of the orifice, equivalent to 2,112 cubic feet per day of 24 hours and in case of waste or damage being occasioned to the land of persons being non-Indians by the right of entry & conveyance of the water on and through their lands for Indian purposes, the compensation to such persons is to be ascertained in case of dispute in such manner as the Chief Commissioner of Land Works, and the Superintendent General

of Indian Affairs of his agent may agree upon

## Upper Nicola Indians. (Shillabekton's tribe).

Inches	Sources of Supply
235	Upper Nicola River, that is Nicola River above Nicola Lake
800	Spah-5-min Creek.
200	Murray Creek.
10	Two Springs near the western boundary of the reserve at the foot of Douglas Lake as shown on the plan

28 September 1878



*Lower Nicola Indians*  
(*Mawessitkuni* tribe).

inches	Sources of Supply.
800	Marmet River
225	Lower Nicola River that is Nicola River below Nicola Lake.
200	Dalley's Creek otherwise called Clapperton's Creek.
20	A little mountain stream known as Joo-yaska's Creek flowing towards the Coldwater.
10	Hamilton's or McDonald's Creek
10	A little stream flowing from the west into Hamilton's Creek, through Logan's River.

5 Sep 1878

10 Sep 1878

11 Sep 1878

12 Sep 1878

*Lyttton Indians.*

inches	Sources of Supply.
75	Hamilton's Creek.
20	Two little streams flowing from the west towards Hamilton's Creek, about 5 miles from Nicola Lake.

12 Sep 1878

Lower Nicola Indians.  
(From the Spens down the Nicola)

Inches	Sources of Supply
120	From a stream about a mile east from the Reserve (near the junction of the Nicola & Spens Rivers, and east of the latter), running westerly to the lower Nicola River also from two small watercourses heading from the south of the reserve, also from all watercourses within the reserve.
90	From all springs or watercourses within the grass reserve about 1 1/2 miles east from the lower Nicola River, and about 25 miles from Spens Bridge, also from the two streams which flow westerly to the lower Nicola River, through the reserve on its right bank about twenty three miles from Spens Bridge.
125	From a stream flowing easterly into the Spens River about 3 1/2 miles from its junction with the lower Nicola River.
200	From the Moosatch River & its tributaries
60	From a stream flowing through the Reserve easterly to the lower Nicola River
30	From a stream in the mountains back from the left bank of the lower

23 July 1879

26 August 1878

Sources

Sources of Supply

Nicola River, and west from Montrose's farm on its right bank.

250 From the Kapsilgan stream which flows through the reserves southwesterly into the lower Nicola River, and from a tributary of the Kapsilgan stream immediately east of the Kapsilgan Reserve, and from all springs and watercourses within the Reserve.

150 From the lower Nicola River.

75 From Shookan stream which flows into the lower Nicola River nearly opposite the Potato Gardens.

20 From a stream flowing into the lower Nicola River near the lower end of Mr. John Duball's farm.

20 From a watercourse which heads from the east of the Reserve, & passes through the Reserve which is about 11 miles from Spens Bridge up the lower Nicola River.

20 August 1878 26 August 1878



## Nicommin Indians

Inches. Sources of supply.

130

From a stream known as the May kik on the flowing through the Reservoir on the left bank of the Lower Nicola River about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Spencer's Bridge.

75

From a stream called Skay na which flows from Squiamish, easterly into the Lower Nicola River also from springs within the Reservoir on the Nicommin Indian Ferry trail about 12 miles from the junction of the Thompson & Nicommin Rivers.

50

From a small lake at Enkalts Reservoir and from a stream flowing southeasterly to Shikikut now used by "Frank" an Indian.

100

From three lakes about three miles south from Shikikut, and from a stream which flows from these lakes to Shikikut.

50

From the Nicommin River.

50

From a stream which it is proposed to dam, which flows through the Reservoir at the 68 mile post from Yale into the Thompson River.

20

From a small stream called Shashkoot which flows into the Thompson River at the 100 mile post from Yale.

67 mile Post from Yale

13 July 1907

Inches

20

Sources of supply.  
From a small stream called Wapahpulgutatum which flows into the Thompson River nearly opposite the 67 mile post from Yale.

20

From a small stream called Shikpawty which flows into the Thompson River nearly opposite the 71 mile post from Yale.

20

From the stream called Sackum which flows into the Thompson River close to the 71 mile post from Yale and from the Enkalts or other lake in which it heads.

20

From a stream called Kivalutlat which runs in an easterly direction nearly up to the west boundary line of the Wapahpawit Reservoir which is nearly opposite the 72 mile post from Yale.

100

From a stream called Shetis which flows into the Thompson River nearly opposite the 74 mile post from Yale.

# Hook's Ferry, Indians

Stocks

Sources of Supply.

130 From a stream called Kloklowich which flows southwesterly through the Kloklowich Reserve into the Lower Nicola River about 7 miles above Spence's Bridge.

30 From a stream which runs westerly through a high bench at the southern end of the Kloklowich Reserve.

All the water in the lakes, ponds, springs, swamps & streams within or partly within, or flowing through the Squamish Reserve above the Mudslide on the left bank of the Thompson River is reserved for the use of the Indians in irrigation and other purposes and to afford drinking water for their stock, but so as not to exclude the cattle of settlers from using that portion of the water of lakes and ponds which can be used by such cattle from the banks of the portion of such lakes and ponds that is outside the Squamish Reserve.

The Indians are to have access to and to be at liberty to carry on, as formerly, their fisheries for the various kinds of fish, at their accustomed fishing places, and more particularly in Salmon Lake, Salmon River, and the creek falling into Salmon River a little below the lake, Trout Lake, Upper Shapperson Creek falling into Shapperson Lake, Lower Shapperson Creek connecting Shapperson Lake with the Upper Nicola River, Spokium Creek, Mimmie Lake the Upper and Lower Nicola Rivers, Hamilton's or McDonald's Creek, Coldwater River, Mamet Lake, Mamet River, Rhoads stream and the Thompson River, but the undersigned informed the Indians that with respect to fish of the Salmon kind, their capture out of season should be discouraged unless required urgently for food, and that the Indians should not at any time destroy salmon or take it for use or sale. The Indians were also informed in answer to their enquiries as to their position in reference to hunting on Crown lands that it was not the practice of the Crown to forbid or place any obstacles in the way of its subjects whether Indians or non-Indians in that matter, but the tacit permission of the Crown did not extend to lands which had been acquired by individuals or corporations or for Indian purposes nor to districts in which the Legislature had made regulations in the common interest of Indians or non-Indians to prevent the destruction of game at improper seasons.

16 August 1878

B. J. G. 1878



The Reserves mentioned in this Minutes  
are shown on the accompanying Plans, numbered  
1 to 10 and Reference Maps.

Wm. Mathew Spoot  
Commissioner

Ind. Res. Com.

Victoria 5 April 1880

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 19th and send you a rough sketch of the reserves at Kicomen Slough which please return and mark thereon where you propose taking up land, and I will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible whether your place will be interfering with Indian lands. It is somewhat difficult to say exactly until the survey is made.

Ronald Stewart Esq.  
Somen

Sam Sir is a  
S. J. McSproul Com.

Ind. Res. Com.

Sir,

Victoria 5 April 1880

It has been arranged that Mr. Foy's place will not be included in the Indian Res. at Chemainus (Oyster Harbour).

Eric Gordon Esq.  
Oyster Harbour.

Yours truly  
S. J. McSproul Com.

Ind. Res. Com.

Victoria 7 April 1880

Sir,

I beg to enclose Cash Statement and Vouchers 1 to 17 in Triplicate for February, and also Cash Statement and Vouchers 1 to 9 in Triplicate for March last, and shall be glad of the money therefor, as soon as possible, as the parties are applying for the amounts.

J. H. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Supd. Victoria

Sam & Co  
S. J. McSproul

Copy

Langley 5 April 1880

Sir,

We the undersigned on behalf of ourselves and our tribe, commonly known as the Langley Indians on the Lower Fraser hereby make complaint to you that William, Joseph and Samuel Shannon and a white man called Allick (we think also Robertson) intruded upon the Land Section 2, Township 15, after it had been assigned for the use of the Langley Indians by the Ind. Res. Com., and have been cutting the trees into logs, and are cutting trees there now. The undersigned Casimir before winter having seen Mr. Shannon at Langley gave him notice that the above land was Indian land reserved for them by the Reserve Com.

On Sunday last Casimir with most of his people went upon the above land,

and again told Mr Shannon that the land belonged to the Indians.

The Langley Indians have been prevented by the above intrusion from making use of the land this spring, and they, by the undersigned, their representatives, beg that you will afford them redress by causing the white men to remove.

We are yours respectfully  
 St Casimir & Chief of the Langley  
 St Charley & Headman of the  
 Langley Indians.  
 Witnesses, St S. Samuels.  
 St Casimir & Chief of the Langley  
 St Charley & Headman of the  
 Langley Indians.  
 Witnesses, St S. Samuels.

J. W. Powell Esq. M.D.  
 Ad. Supr.

Victoria B.C.  
 April 8th 1880  
 Mr. Res. Com.

Sir,

In reference of the foregoing complaint of Casimir and Charley on behalf of the Langley Indians, I have to mention state that the land mentioned as having been intruded upon, viz Section two (2), Township Fifteen, N., New West District was assigned by me as an Indian Reserve on the 27 June 1879.

J. W. Powell Esq.

Ad. Supr. Victoria

I have the honor  
 to be Sir  
 Yours obdt Servt  
 St S. Samuels  
 Com.

April 8th 1880

Dear Sir,

I fancy that the enclosed is all that I can do in the matter.

By Section 12 Indian Act "complaint has to be made to you" and "proof of the facts" has to be given to your satisfaction. I prove that the land is Indian land but the execution of your warrant might injure as to whether the Shannons were on Section 2. Mr Branson's land adjoins and he no doubt has posts in and if outside Branson's land in that direction the Shannons must be on Indian land.

Yours &c.  
 St S. Samuels

J. W. Powell Esq.

Could you give Casimir (Langley Chief) your sketch of his Reserves at Stave River. He wants one & you could get another made for yourself.

St S. Samuels

Indian Reserve Commissioner  
 Victoria 14th April 1880

Sir/

Has Attorney  
 General  
 to you  
 dated 13th  
 April 1880

In reference to the letter as per margin, respecting discontent alleged to exist among the Indians at Alert Bay, which you have handed to me for my observations thereon, I have to state that the letter appears to be incorrect as it is not in accordance with the communication sent to Mr Spencer by Mr. Hudson, on which the Attorney General's



letter purports to be based.

In the first place Mr Spencer has not received "letters" on the above subject; he has only received one letter.

Secondly, Mr Huson, whose original letter I have seen, does not state that the Indians have "on several occasions taken away his property". All he says is that on one occasion a few of the Indians - 4 or 5 I believe - unlawfully attempted to seize a lot of deer skins which they pitched off the wharf - an act on their part which may have had the character of an "unlawful attempt" but which may have been an act of rude bravado. The Indians did not take possession of the skins.

Thirdly Mr Huson distinctly states that the cause of the discontent "is away back" at the time "when Mr Frath was here, and the neglect of the authorities"; and this statement he repeats in another part of the letter in the following words: "the cause dates away back in former years when they done as they pleased with poor Mr Frath".

I may remark here that I have been told that Mr Frath had the misfortune to have caused the death of an Indian by a blow not, it is supposed, meant to do bodily harm.

The Attorney General's letter is further incorrect in affirming that Mr Huson states that "since Mr Sproat visited Alert Bay, the Indians have been dissatisfied". These are not Mr Huson's words. What he says in another portion of the letter dated "2 days after the 4th instant, is that" it now

"it now seems that they have been dissatisfied about something ever since Mr Sproat was about here".

This is a very different statement, and I may explain that I am aware that Indians were displeased with me for one reason - namely because I told them that, while they would be justly treated as regards their land, Mr Huson could not be removed, nor could his improvements or business at Alert Bay be in any way damaged. I explained, further, to them that the presence and trading operations of a white citizen were for their good, and that other Indians begged me to get white traders to come among them. The better class of the Alert Bay Indians quite understood this. No complaint was made to me by the Indians respecting Mr Huson, except that he had, as they expressed it, "tried to steal their land" at the mouth of the Nemikah river. Mr Huson in fact, applied to the Provincial Government to purchase land there, and this had become known to the Indians, who expressed to me their dissatisfaction in very strong terms indeed. I addressed a letter on this subject on the 28th Oct 1879, a paper enclosed copy, to the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works but no notice, as far as I know, has been taken of that letter.

I may add as regards Alert Bay, the Admiralty chart of 1860 shows that the Indians had a village or houses at Alert Bay at that time, and I satisfied myself by the evidence of white witnesses that the graveyard now where it now is at Alert Bay

was formerly, a Kwaw-Kewelt place, and it might be held, that the Indian settlement there was protected by the agreement between Governor Douglas and the Kwaw-Kewelt people. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1857

I think it is to be regretted under the circumstances that the Government of British Columbia on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1870, should have leased the whole of Cormorant Island for 21 years to Mr. Shum and others, without specially examining and adjusting Indian land questions there. I did not however express this opinion to the Indians.

I have not found the Indians unreasonable, but they naturally do not like to be put on one side in any case without their land claims being recognised to a reasonable extent.

I am Sir

J. M. Powell Esq. <sup>1891</sup> <sup>James</sup> <sup>Shum</sup>  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

Memorandum on letters of W. S. McMillan Clerk of the Municipal Council, Chilliwack 30<sup>th</sup> March 1880 to J. M. Powell Esq. Indian Superintendent Victoria, and of Mr. Samuel Greer, Chilliwack to the same 29<sup>th</sup> Mar 1880.

The road which the Council wish to construct might perhaps be permitted to be made of a certain width, but the Department, I think, would require some further information, and as a surveyor

will probably be at Chilliwack to survey Reserves during the coming season, it may be convenient to postpone the consideration of the question until he visits the place, and makes a report. There is no urgent necessity for action in the matter, so far as the public convenience is concerned.

It might be well to inform the Municipal Council that on the information at present before the Department it would be desirable to make an arrangement to ensure more direct communication between the Squamish and other Reserves and the Frunk road, before permitting any new road to be made to affect these reserves.

The Clerk of the Council will find in the Indian Act the law respecting highways. The practical bearing of his question is that the Council would, if you sanctioned the application of the law, sections 23 and 24, probably compel the Shwakh Indians to keep in repair the main road, which for about half a mile passes through the Shwakh Reserve. This road is on softish ground and is used by the whole settlement as it leads to the Steamboat landing. Now this road was made without permission from the Department, and without compensation to the Indians, and though the time may come when you may see your way to direct that a certain amount of road labour should be performed on it by the Indians, I think that in the first place, all Chilliwack road questions should be settled fairly towards the Indians.



who, as Mr. Freer says, feel aggrieved, particularly those whose direct access to the trunk road has been shut off.

If the Council obtain a general reply from you as to the obligation of Indians to keep roads in repair, they would act on it, and I ~~suppose~~ suggest that you should inform Mr. McMillan that, until the land adjustment has further advanced you are not prepared to consider the obligations of the Indians in the West District with respect to road labour, and, under any circumstances you would require full particulars in any applications for the same.

I have written letters to Messrs. Kipp, Reece, and McButcher today as per copies herewith, and will communicate their replies when received. The Surveyor who goes to Chulishack can be fully informed of the position of the whole road question before he goes there, meanwhile, I send herewith explanatory documents and sketches as per annexed list.

Mr. Freer's letter is useful, as confirming the condition of the Indians with respect to roads in general in Chulishack.

The point of the letter, as far as he is concerned, is that if the Council were permitted to make the road mentioned and to take 16 1/2 feet from the east side of the Skwah reserve the Council would also require 16 1/2 feet from the east side of his claim.

(Hy) JMB  
16th April  
1880

For list  
of documents  
see next  
page

### List referred to

1. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Mr. McMillan dated April 26<sup>th</sup> 1879. — " — " — " — " —
2. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Chief born of lands and Works dated May 9<sup>th</sup> 1879 — " — " —
3. Copy letter Surveyor General to Mr. Sprout dated May 12<sup>th</sup> 1879
4. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Mr. Farrell enclosing copy of Gazette notice May 17<sup>th</sup> 1879
5. Copy letter Mr. Farrell to Mr. Sprout enclosing sketch May 17<sup>th</sup> 1879.
6. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Superintendent General dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 1879.
7. Copy letter Deputy Superintendent General to Mr. Sprout dated Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> 1879.
8. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Mr. McMillan enclosing copy of Deputy Superintendent General letter of the 8 Aug 1879 — dated Apr 11<sup>th</sup> 1879.
9. Copy letter Messrs. McButcher and Reece to Mr. Sprout dated June 16<sup>th</sup> 1879.
10. Copy letter Mr. McButcher to Mr. Sprout enclosing sketch dated June 16<sup>th</sup> 1879.
11. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Mr. McButcher dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 1880
12. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Mr. J. Reece dated April 16<sup>th</sup> 1880.
13. Copy letter Mr. Sprout to Mr. Kipp dated April 16<sup>th</sup> 1880
14. Copy letter J. Freer to Dr. Powell dated March 29<sup>th</sup> 1880 with notes thereon
15. Original of same returned.
16. Copy letter J. McMillan to Dr. Powell with notes thereon dated March 30<sup>th</sup> 1880
17. Original of same returned.

Victoria 16<sup>th</sup> April 1880

Dear Sir/

Please state how the Indian roadway proposed between lots 27 and 257 now stands, as I have to report the matter to the Department and that would seem the best adjustment instead of opening up the old trail question

Yours truly

John McButcher Esq  
Chilliwack

(By) J. McProat

Victoria April 16<sup>th</sup> 1880

Dear Sir/

You promised, when I was at Chilliwack, to give 33 feet off your own land, so that a proposed road could be made between your land and the west side of the Skwah Reserve, without requiring the Indians to give land or move their fences. As I am now sending in my final reports to the Department, and have nothing from you in writing on the above subject, will you oblige me by sending a letter in reply to this.

Yours very truly

Isaac Kipp Esq  
Chilliwack

(By) J. McProat

Victoria 16<sup>th</sup> April 1880

Dear Sir/

Chilliwack Indians

Kindly state to us how the question of the roadway stands on the line between lots 27 and 257, group 2 mentioned in letter of yours and McButcher to me 16<sup>th</sup> June 1879, as I am making my final reports to the Department and oblige yours truly

J. K. Kipp Esq  
Chilliwack

(By) J. McProat

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria 20<sup>th</sup> April 1880

Sir/

My present perusal of the notes of the Commission in connection with closing the Documentary work for the District of New Westminster, and the apparently early possibility of railway construction being begun at several places along the wagon road suggest to me that I may advantageously remind you of the contents of my letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> March last and especially draw attention to the enclosure therein on the subject of the passage of the railway through Indian lands. It is in my opinion highly important in dealing with the Indians in this matter to begin well, as news of good or bad treatment spreads rapidly over a great area, and affects the minds of many tribes. I find in my notes that the Galle Indians expressed anxiety as to graves which might be injured by the passage of the railway, as far as they knew of the surveys, and that I took on myself to assure them that though nothing could be permitted to stop railway construction yet I believed the Government, in the event of railway construction being undertaken, would give timely notice to the Indians, and cause the question of removing their graves to be tenderly dealt with. The graves of Indians being protected by a stringent British Colonial Ordinance, this question probably need not be affected by the paralysis of all Indian affairs which has been brought about by the late action of the Provincial Government. If I might suggest some practical action on the matter, steps might be taken to obtain a report



from the different Engineers employed, as to what graves would have to be removed, and then the Department could arrange with the Indians with respect to such removals, that is to say, if the Department is not going to act immediately with reference to the whole question of the passage of the railway through Indian lands, or lands assigned for their use.

If their present state of confidence and good humour is preserved from the outset, they will be easily dealt with.

I write this, partly from having heard that a number of workmen may soon be sent to Yale by the contractor for the railway, who probably will expect that no Indian questions should interfere with his work.

I am Sir &  
(Sg) G. M. Sproat.

J. W. Powell Esq  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

Victoria 21 April 1880

Sir

Census

I beg to hand you <sup>herewith</sup> the following:-  
(1) Copy of Census of portion of the Kwakwaka'wakw tribe in a Book.

(2) Copy of the same on sheets, as taken by Mr. W. H. King, Esq.,

J. W. Powell Esq. M.D.  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria  
(and counter signed by me.)  
I am Sir &  
G. M. Sproat

Private

J. R. C.

24 April 1880

Sir,

The enclosed is extract from a private letter of Mr. Hudson of Alert Bay to Mr. S. A. Spencer Victoria 14 April 1880. The latter gentleman allowed me to make the extract, and I send it to you as it refers mainly to extra Commission matters. I referred to this letter in my report to you of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. respecting Mr. Walker's communication to you on Alert Bay matters dated 13<sup>th</sup> inst.

Mr. Hudson appears to have written under strong feelings of irritation, if not apprehension, but probably matters have quieted down. The hemlock Indians, so far as I could learn, have always been very rough Indians, and it is probable that the rude conduct complained of by Mr. Hudson was limited to a few including perhaps some ablation or friend of the Indian killed many years ago by Mr. Mc. Graft.

What Mr. Hudson says about Whiskey among these and other Indians agrees with all that I heard when in that District.

I have a letter from the Rev. A. S. Hall dated Alert Bay the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. of which I annex an extract. He mentions having had a long talk with Mr. Hudson, but

does not say a word about bad  
behaviour on the part of the Indians.  
I am Sir, Yours truly  
J. H. Sprunt

Extrade

Recd the Fort Rupert and  
Kamtiest Indians are now at Alert Bay  
the former being called by the latter  
to a pallatib. The Kamtiest Indians  
are delighted at the thought of my  
settling among them and the chief  
Klat. Ko. goes said this morning  
that he would assist in making  
my shingles and in clearing away  
the heavy timber. The Fort Ruperts,  
on the other hand are very sorry that  
I am purposing to leave them and  
have suggested many places at the  
Fort where they think I could build.

Several however have made up their  
mind to come here and have even staked  
off the ground for their houses -

J. H. Power Esq  
Adm. Sup. at  
Victoria

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria April 29<sup>th</sup> 1880

Sir/ They herewith to enclose Instructions for  
surveys for the Chilliwack group of Indians in  
accordance with the decisions of the Reserve Commission.  
I have kept a copy.

Yrs. Wm. H. L. L.

Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

I am Sir

(by J. H. Sprunt  
bomr)

Victoria 13 May 1880

Sir,

Adverting to my letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst  
with a report on the Chilliwack Council's  
resolution about Indian Reserves, in which,  
among other things, I mentioned the washing  
of soil from the Stead Reserve at Hope Slough  
by the Fraser River, I think it well in further  
illustration of that Report, and for general  
Departmental information, to enclose herewith  
Mr Surveyor Farnell's Report on that subject  
dated 12 May 1880 with two sketches.

The washing  
you will see has been great - the site of the  
original landing laid off in 1868, being now  
far out in the Fraser, and there may be more  
washing still.

I may mention that between  
Decr 1878 and April 1879, a large wash took place  
and the store shown on No 2 sketch nearest the  
landing had to be moved back several hundred  
feet.

In Decr 1878 the Municipal Council  
applied to me to lay off a fresh landing in  
lieu of the original 1868 landing (see Mr  
Farnell's Report Page 2) and I was prepared to  
consider the matter on my return in the Spring  
of 1879, but after various conversations with  
the Councillors and settlers, it seemed best  
to leave matters as they were owing to the  
uncertainty of the action of the river.

There is no great traffic, and  
the 66 foot road which runs to the river -  
see Sketch 2, gives apparently enough standing  
& turning room for teams. This is how the



Chilliwack landing question now stands.

Should any fresh application be made for a landing there, it may be borne in mind that the existing 66 ft. highway was made and gauged since Confederation (23 Nov 1878), without any permission from the Indian Department and without any compensation to the Indians, and that a landing could not now be made at the end of the road without removing houses and fenced cultivated lands of the Indians.

Public convenience, of course, would have to be considered, due compensation being made to the Indians. But, as above said, practically the width of the road runs at present to suffer at Shp's Landing.

J. W. Pavey Esq  
Asst. Superintendent  
Victoria

I am & c  
Sd. G. M. Sproule Com<sup>d</sup>

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Com<sup>d</sup>

Victoria 13 May 1880

Sir,

I enclose instructions for Whonack and Langley Indian Reserves.

It has been arranged that you shall survey first, instead of Chilliwack, the lands of the Langley and Whonack (or Co. a. nuck, Indians - affiliated tribes - but what is wanted particularly is the survey of the Stave River reserves of those

people.

You can leave the Mc Millan Island and adjacent Langley Reserves, and those near New Westminster belonging to the Langley Indians for survey by and by according to any arrangements which you may find it necessary to make in view of mosquitoes or high water.

There are questions at Stave River owing to the intrusion of Shauman Bros. and others on lands which I had previously assigned.

You need not discuss these questions but simply survey as per instructions and send your notes and plans as soon as possible, noting the intrusions on the plans.

Casimir is the Langley Chief's name. He has been down here since about these intrusions. He goes up by steamer to New Westminster to-morrow.

I have at present no further amendment of general instruction respecting New Westminster district to give you except that Mr. Ingham, before going to the route to be allotted to him will probably be directed to survey the Kailoi reserve.

He will probably begin about 'Gale or Hope & work up wagon road for season.

I am & c  
Capt. J. Emmet C.E.  
New Westminster

Sd. G. M. Sproule Com<sup>d</sup>

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission.  
15 May 1880.

(Murphy's case at Hope)

Sir

I beg to return herewith the original of Mr. Gore's letter to you of the 12<sup>th</sup> and its enclosure (Mr. Murphy's letter to Mr. Waltem 3 May 1880) together with my Report on the case which will explain how the matter stands. I enclose also copy of Report for the Prov. Gov.

I think it will be well for me to send a third copy to one of the white residents at Hope, with an explanatory letter, as the Indian appears to be acting under a misapprehension in claiming all the cultivable land at Kow. ka. wa.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Super. Victoria

I am Sir or ver  
Yr. G. M. Sprout Com.

British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission.

Victoria 13 May 1880

In reference to letter of Mr. Surveyor General Gore dated 12 May 1880 addressed to Lieut. Col. Powell, Superintendent Indian Affairs, with an enclosed copy of a letter, dated 3 May 1880, to the Hon. The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, from Mr. Chas. Murphy, Hope, relative

to a land question between him and an Indian Tse. c. wail. in, or Bernard. The presumed head man of the group of Indians whose head quarters are at Ay-waw. was. village at the mouth of the Coghalla, or Koe. Kue. kah. la, river, the undersigned has the honour to report

That there

is a lake a few miles beyond Hope, known to the Indians as Kow. ka. wa. but, commonly called Big Lake, where some of the Ay. waw. was. Indians formerly grew potatoes, the seed for which, it is stated, they originally got from the Hudson's Bay Co. at Langley.

The Indians,

Tse. c. wail. in, has, for many years, been afraid that white men would occupy the place (the Hope reserves do not seem ever to have been assigned though orders were given in December 1859 to examine and adjust the matter) and Tse. c. wail. in, in 1875, before the Reserve Commission was appointed, or heard of, went to Mr. Teague Esq. Agent at Yale, and having communicated to him his apprehensions, obtained from him a paper of which the following is a copy.

Yale B.C. 27 Dec 1875.

"See. wail. am

- "The Indian Chief of Kow. ka. wa. claims for their own use and benefit a parcel of land above Union Bar which is known on the official map as the Kow. ka. wa. Reservation.

W. Teague  
Gov. Agent



Subsequently to the above date, namely, on the 2 May 1876, Mr. Murphy recorded as a pre-emption, 80 acres on the east side of Kow. Ka. wa Lake, which included the Indian land stated, above, by Mr. League to have been an Indian Reserve, and which, also, would, from its history, so far as can be ascertained, come fairly within the meaning of an "Indian settlement" in a locality where the Govt. had not assigned reserves for the Indians. It was, consequently, not land that could be, legally, pre-empted.

So far as I can learn, Mr. Murphy, moreover, has not conformed to the legal conditions of occupying the lands which he pre-empted.

The Indians objected to Mr. Murphy's occupation of the place, and, on the 26 April 1877, that gentleman wrote a letter to Isaac E. Wail, one of which the following is a copy.

This is to certify that when the Commissioners arrive for the settlement of the land claims, should you desire the land I now hold by pre-emption at the Big Lake as a part of your reservation, that I promise to withdraw my pre-emption right in your favour upon moderate compensation being made me for improvements, and, further, that I have no objection to your Indians cultivating any land within my boundaries until such time as your claims are settled; but, in that case, the land so cultivated should not be included in your Reservation.

"I wish it distinctly understood that your Indians shall have no claim on me for the work they may do in clearing or otherwise."

W. C. Murphy,

Union Bar. 26 April 1877.

The history of the case, the legal, or at least equitable, position of the Indians in the matter, the strong feeling of Isaac E. Wail, in with respect to the place, and the efforts he had made, from time to time, to make the Government acquainted with his wishes, made it undesirable and contrary to the instructions given by both Governments to the Reserve Commission to remove him, particularly as Mr. Murphy did not appear to have any real status.

But, on the other hand, the undersigned was unwilling to press hardly on that gentleman, and finally, having been able to secure, elsewhere, land for most of the Ag. saw. mi. people, though not so convenient for them as Kow. Ka. wa, and considerably detached, (as the nature of that portion of the district necessitated) the undersigned finally decided, in view of the circumstances, generally, that a sensible compromise would be effected by assigning a small piece of land, say 10 acres, on the east side of Kow. Ka. wa Lake as part of the Union Bar Indian Reserve, leaving the remainder open for white settlement.

The Reserve, of about 10 acres, is to commence at the southern outfall of Mr. Murphy's ditch on

on east side of Kow. ka. wa Lake -  
 thence true east 5 chains -  
 thence true south 20 chains -  
 thence true west 10 chains -  
 thence true north to Lake -  
 thence following shore of Lake to the  
 starting point but it is to be drawn  
 so as to include not less than 5 acres  
 of cultivable land. That is low land.

The Reserve is shown  
 approximately, on the annexed rough  
 sketch.

The Indians are to have  
 the prior right to water from the Creek  
 flowing through the land, and from  
 all available water supply for irrigating  
 the reserve, if required.

? Supt. Genl. Indian Affairs  
 Sec. of D. with Lower House Ind. Aff.  
 Union Bar Group

W. M. Sprout  
 Comr.

British Columbia  
 Indian Reserve Commission.

Private

Barter.

Victoria, 17 May 1880.

I have been asked to report  
 on the negotiation between the Union Bar chief  
 and Mr. Murphy, and I enclose for your  
 information a copy of the same.

I have not  
 been able to find any mention of Kow. ka. wa  
 as an assigned Reserve on the official map,  
 which you state it is in your paper to the  
 Chief dated 27 Decr 1875 (see my report), but,  
 no doubt the Indians formerly grew potatoes  
 there, and strictly it was an Indian settlement.

Considering this I thought it right to  
 give the Chief a piece <sup>about</sup> 10 acres, of which  
 5 acres must be good potato land, seemed  
 to me enough for him and that it would satisfy  
 his feeling with respect to the place.

Captain John and the other  
 Union Bar Indians did not seem to have  
 much feeling about the place, and I did  
 not see any good in moving Mr. Murphy,  
 because for these Indians in general I assigned  
 other ground, particularly, on the right bank  
 above the Siskro, at a village called "Puck-  
 a-hole-chin", or some such name, and  
 on the big island (Seabird Island, down  
 the river between Skwaw-lits and Popkum.

That island is meant for the  
 Hale, Hope, Union Bar, Skwaw-lits or Indians  
 and there is fine land on it, and desiring  
 much that the Indians should have it, I  
 was averse from giving them many little bits  
 of inferior soil further up the river.

I think the Union Bar chief was  
 absent, but the above was explained to Cap-  
 John, and I am sure I have done in this  
 matter what was best for the Indians while  
 hoping that I had satisfied the feeling  
 which the Chief personally had for the  
 place at Kow. ka. wa.

I write this, so  
 that you can remind the Indians of my  
 reasons.

W. Teague Coy.  
 Gall

Yours truly  
 W. M. Sprout



British Columbia  
Indian Res. Commission

Victoria 18 May 1880

In reference to a letter purporting to be from Mr. John Greenhow, Okanagan, but not in his handwriting, dated 29 April 1880, addressed to J. G. Vernon Esq. about an Indian Fishery Reserve at Swan Lake, Okanagan, and by the latter gentleman handed to the Indian Department, the undersigned has the honour to report:

That Mr. Greenhow is in error in stating that the undersigned laid off any Indian Reserve at Okanagan, inasmuch, as all the Reserves there were assigned by the Reserve Commission which then was composed of three gentlemen.

The Reserve Commission did not by their assignment of Indian lands did not encroach upon Mr. Greenhow's pre-emption at Swan Lake. That gentleman, so far as could be ascertained, did not occupy legally any land there, though he may have made a pre-emption record. Even had he fulfilled the occupancy conditions, he could not have ~~included~~ <sup>included</sup> the old Indian fishery settlement, at the head of Swan Lake, within his pre-emption.

The instructions from both the Dom<sup>n</sup> and the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup> required that the Indians should not be disturbed in such fishing places and the action of the Commission with respect to these, generally, in the Interior

is fully described in the general Report of the Comm<sup>n</sup> acting for the Province, dated 1 May 1878, and addressed to the then Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works, The Hon. J. G. Vernon.

In assigning such fishing places in the Interior, convenient access must be provided together with a piece of land as a camping ground, and enclosure for horses.

The fishery reserve at the head of Swan Lake was made as small as possible, and the Commissioners were guided by three main considerations in locating it.

(1) To include what the Indians pointed out as their usual place of fishing on the stream (then dry)

2, To draw the lines of the proposed enclosure so that the Indians could have access, as nearly as possible, directly from the main wagon road, thus to avoid the passage of Indians over the lands of white settlers, and the inconvenience of their leaving gates open, and so forth.

3, To provide a share of the good fence timber, at the head of Swan Lake, for use by the Indians at their fishing place.

These considerations dictated the location area and shape of the Reserve which is shown, approximately, on the following rough sketch, subject to survey.

Mr Greenhow is

further, in error in stating that the decision of the Reserve Com<sup>n</sup> completely shut him off from the waters of the Lake. He did not possess any land, and it therefore could not be shut off; but, as a matter of fact, the Indian land (coloured red on sketch), occupies only about one half of the head of the lake. The remaining portion at head of lake, and, continuously, for more than a mile round the north east shore (coloured yellow on sketch), was unoccupied when the Reserve Commission left the ground, and remained so for about two years until 8 Nov 1879, when it was pre-empted by Mr. Joseph Anderson.

The land, coloured yellow on sketch, or a portion of it, could, up to the date of Mr Anderson's pre-emption, have been obtained by Mr Greenhow had he desired it, because, on the 27 Sept 1877, under an arbitration award of the three gentlemen forming the Commission, with respect to a matter different from that now being reported on, Mr Greenhow acquired a right to select 320 acres of unoccupied land at the head of Swan Lake "but not to interfere with fish stations which the Indian Reserve Commissioners may give to the Indians."

J. H. Powell Esq. M.A.  
Comm.

# Indian Reserve Commission

Victoria 18 May 1880

Sir,

I beg herewith to return the letter, as per margin, which you handed me, and to enclose also my Report on the subject matter thereof by which you will observe that Mr Greenhow's statements are incorrect. I further enclose copy of the Report.

The Commission, fortunately, has been able to dispense with laying off many of these small fish fisheries in the Interior; but the one at Swan Lake was one which the Indians would not surrender, and the Commissioners were glad to be able to locate it conveniently, and close to the main road, as the sketch in my report shows.

On the general question of these small fisheries, I beg to enclose an extract from the Report of the Prov. Com<sup>n</sup> to the Ch. Com<sup>n</sup> of Lands, dated 1 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1878, and would call attention to that part of it on the subject of a possible conflict between the Indians, who resort to such places to fish, and the settlers, who, in irrigation, may divert so much of the water of the stream that the fish cannot ascend.

Such a question is likely to arise, at the head of Swan Lake, between Mr Greenhow and the Indians.

I am Sir &c  
J. H. Powell Esq. M.A.  
Comm.

J. H. Powell Esq. M.A.  
Comm.

Mr The Governor to J. H. Powell Esq. 29 April 1880.



Indian Res. Comm.

Victoria 19 May 1880

Sir

In reference to the intrusion of Chinamen on the Indian lands at Shaptoan Flat, Thompson River, which has been the subject of repeated communication between the Reserve Commission and the Provincial Govt., between the Dominion and the Provincial Govt., and between the Res. Comm. and yourself, and respecting what the Prov. Gov. has furnished information in a detailed Report sent to them on the 18 Aug<sup>r</sup> 1878, I find that a Certificate of Improvement, dated 23 Feb<sup>r</sup> 1880, has been issued in favour of Ah. Goh, the principal intruder.

I am x x x  
J. W. Powell Esq. }  
Ind. Super Victoria }

Indian Res. Comm.

Victoria 19 May 1880

Sir

I enclose "Surveyors Instructions" for the Katzie Subgroup of Indians and beg to say that, as you will observe, it is deemed desirable, under the circumstances, to give considerable discretion to you after examining the ground with respect to portions of the proposed reserves, as the Commission was unable, from high water, to make the necessary examination during their visit to that locality.

Sanctioned you to

lay off and survey what you may select, leaving in mind the general considerations mentioned in the note contained in the Instructions, and having reference to the real idea of satisfying the Indians in this, the permanent assignment of lands for their use. Should any unexpected difficulties arise you can telegraph to me.

The general "Surveyors Instructions" for the remainder of the season after you have finished Katzie will be sent to you, addressed Kootsie by Tuesday Steamboat. Meantime following conversation, you doubtless will have ascertained the prospects of the Hope and Coldwater trail being open now, or soon.

In reference to my remark in conversation, that Adams Lake reserve should not be left as a detached unfinished piece amidst surrounding reserves (which the elevation of a portion of it might unexpectedly recede, if not borne in mind), I have referred to my note book and find that at head of Okanagan Lake, snow was visible first on the 13 Sept on the mountains east of Spallumcheen.

Wishing you a successful season.

I am, Sir,

E. M. C. Esq. }  
Surveyor }

Your obedt. Servt.  
J. W. Powell Esq.

J. W. C.

Victoria 19 May 1880

Sir

I have sent to Mr. Broke his instructions for Katzie, and said that his instructions for the remainder of the season's work as determined

in conversation with yourself will be sent to him at Hazelton by Tuesday's skumbont.

Cap. Jemmett has telegraphed me for copies of some field notes for Stave River and I have instructed Mr. Farnell to prepare these at Land Office tomorrow and will send them to Cap. Jemmett by Friday's steamer. I told the telegraph man to change the 6 bits for the telegram to your Dept. marking it sundry.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

I am Sir &c &c  
Sd. G. M. Stewart Com<sup>r</sup>

J. R. Le

Victoria 19 May 1880

Sir,

I reply to your telegram just received asking for field notes of Lot 443. St. Stave River. I enclose all the information which can be got at the Land Office.

The west boundaries of Lots 437 and 443 have not been run on the ground.

I am Sir &c &c  
Sd. G. M. Stewart Com<sup>r</sup>  
Cap. Jemmett C.E.  
Surveyor Ind. Res.  
Stave River or Hazelton

British Columbia  
Indian Reserve Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 20 May 1880

The undersigned has the honour to submit the following Report on a letter from Mr. Samuel Shannon,

Stave River, dated 15 May 1880, addressed to Cap. Jemmett, Surveyor of Indian Reserves, and by him, forwarded to J. W. Powell Esq. Indian Superintendent Victoria.

The Indian Reserve Com<sup>r</sup> on the 27 June 1879, assigned to the Dominion Gov<sup>t</sup>, as an Indian Reserve, the land on which Mr. Shannon has intruded. This assignment was made from lands which, in the autumn of 1878, had been reserved by the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup> for the Dominion Gov<sup>t</sup> as railway lands. The Ind. Res. Com<sup>r</sup> was directed by the Dom<sup>n</sup> Gov<sup>t</sup> to proceed with its special work as if no railway lands had been reserved.

It appears, nevertheless, that Mr. Shannon, subsequently, when it is said, came on the business of a logger at Stave River, subsequently squatted on a portion of the above mentioned Indian land, and that, as he states in his letter, he has been in continuous occupation of said portion of land since last Sept<sup>r</sup>, has run his lines and driven corner stakes on which he has placed notices of occupation, and, further, that he has erected buildings and made extensive improvements on the land in connection with his business as a logger.

The land having been surveyed by the Prov. Gov<sup>t</sup> the undersigned may remark there was no necessity for stakes being put in.

Mr. Shannon states that he claims the land which he is attempting to hold by what he calls a "squatter's right".

This is a right unknown to the Land Laws of British Columbia.



With respect to the <sup>railway</sup> lands in New Westminster District such a right exists, so far as the undersigned is aware, only in the form of a Departmental assurance which, the newspapers say, has been given that occupiers, considered to be bona fide settlers, would not be disturbed, but would be placed on the same footing as other occupiers who might acquire lands under regulations of the Dominion Land Office in this Province, to be subsequently made.

Whether a squatter, like Mr Shannon, who, in the course of his business, cuts down and removes valuable timber, would be considered by the Dominion Land Office as an ordinary settler it is not necessary to inquire, as only the Indian Dept., and not the Dom. Land Office, appears to be concerned in the present case.

It will hardly be contended, though Mr Shannon would seem to desire to put forward the plea, that a gentleman can acquire any legal, or other, right to formally assigned Indian lands in this Province by the mere fact of squatting on them, or that he can cut timber on Indian lands without authority from the Superintendent.

On the contrary, Mr Shannon, by clause 16 of the Indian Act, is liable to forfeit \$200 for every tree he has cut on such lands without special licence, and the whole of any "boom" or raft, with which such timber has been intermingled at a sawmill, is liable to seizure and forfeiture until the Indian logs have been satisfactorily separated. The question

of Mr Shannon's right does not seem however to require discussion.

That Mr Shannon probably means to urge by his letter is that there are mitigatory circumstances in his case, which he submits for consideration, but these do not appear to the undersigned to be borne out by facts.

The undersigned may here remark that there is not a single instance, during the last 3½ years since the Reserve Commission began to adjust the Indian land question on the main-land, of any settler, even with merely squatting rights, having been disturbed in his occupancy, or improvements, when these had commenced, or been made before the visit of the Commission.

In general a compromise has been effected, and it must be said that, in most cases, the Indians have been very reasonable in not making inconvenient demands, though squatters in some cases have occupied land which the Indians hoped to get and much insisted to have.

Mr Shannon's case is altogether of another character. He, and it is said, others, intruded upon the land in question subsequently to its assignment as an Indian Reserve, and, though demonstrated wrong by the Indians, Mr Shannon does not appear to have made any enquiry as to their allegations.

The Langley Chief, Coosier, states, that in 1879, "before the winter set in," he told Mr. Mr Shannon that the land he was cutting timber on had been assigned as an Indian Reserve, but no communication on the subject reached the Reserve Commission or the Indian Department at

New Westminster.

The fact of the existence of the Res Com<sup>rs</sup>, of its having been at work in New Westminster District, of its having visited Stave River & adjusted a difficult question with a neighbour of Mr Shannon (Mr Brown) was perfectly known; and Mr Shannon, at any time between the date of his entry upon the land and the present time, could have ascertained the facts by writing a letter to the undersigned, or to Mr Fenwick.

It cannot be said that the Dom. Com<sup>rs</sup> has lost any time in making settlers practically aware of the Indian land adjustment in the New Westminster District, seeing, that a surveyor of Indian Reserves is already at work there.

J. S. Macpherson  
Com<sup>rs</sup>

Indian Res Com<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria 20 May 1880

Sir,

I beg to enclose herewith two copies of a Report on a letter of Mr Samuel Shannon, Stave River, 15 May 1880, which report states the facts so far as known to me, of his intrusion upon the Langley and Klonock Indian land there; and I also return enclosed Mr Shannon's letter with that of Capt. Gemmett dated 16 May 1880.

J. H. Powell Esq. M.P.  
Secy - Superintendent

I am Sir &c.  
J. S. Macpherson Com<sup>rs</sup>

British Columbia  
Ind. Res. Commission

Victoria  
20 May 1880

Sir,

It has been arranged that you shall survey this season the Reserves at the head of Okanagan Lake, Spellumcheen and those left unfinished by Capt Gemmett on Shuswap Lake.

It will be convenient if, in going, or returning, your party surveys the Coldstream Reserves left unfinished last season by the Surveyor in Kootenai Valley.

You will make your way to the Okanagan District either by the Hope-Kootenai trail, or waggon road, as you may find most desirable in reference to economy of time and money, having previously arranged for transport of your effects either by pack train or waggon; and should the obstructions on the route temporarily stop your party, you can survey the reserves in the neighbourhood of Hope until the road is open.

I annex list of the reserves for surveying which instructions are enclosed.

Those for Okanagan, Spellumcheen and Shuswap Lake are already in your possession.

The delays which you state are in some cases caused by the running of ditch levels for irrigation make it desirable that you should have discretion to run these, or, refrain from running them; and this is accordingly given to you. But you will be good enough to help the Indians in this matter where you consider it advisable.



I enclose copy of a report made by me on a complaint of Mr Tho Greenwood relative to the fishing reserve at the head of Swan Lake, near Okanagan Lake.

The Indians state that, on both Swan & Duck Lakes, the white settlers have been taking timber from the reserves, and it may be well that you should report to the Superintendent what you may observe in this matter.

It has not, hitherto, been considered advisable to survey the Okanagan Reserves, owing to the dispute between Mr O'Keefe and the Indians, but as Mr Walker stated, lately, to Mr Smith and D'Poult, that he agreed with the contention of the Reserve Com<sup>rs</sup> that Mr O'Keefe's claim was unfounded, you have now to survey the disputed piece. If Mr O'Keefe interferes he will render himself liable to the penalties of the Provincial Act for the protection of Surveyors.

You may advise the Superintendent of the particulars of any fresh phase of the water dispute between Mr Charles Macdonald, and J. Grey. Asks. Should such have appeared in addition to what is stated in my Field Minutes.

It is improbable that the water used by the mill erected by Mr O'Keefe at Okanagan will, appreciably, diminish the water in Meadow Creek which might be available for irrigating the Indian lands; but you will be good enough to direct your attention to this point.

The Indians talked of making a dam at Meadow Creek, and a few hints to them respecting this work might be useful.

It is unnecessary for me to extend my observations on various points of detail as you were with the Com<sup>rs</sup> when these Okanagan Reserves were laid out.

Be good enough to send to Capt Semmel, who is working in the Ben Westminster District, any of the "Instructions for Surveyors" for reserves in the neighbourhood of Hope which you may not have finished before leaving for the interior.

I am &c  
J. G. McPherson Com<sup>rs</sup>

A Book endorsed "Indian Reserves Mainland 1877" containing descriptions of the same, by yourself, from North Thompson to Osoyoos.

(Instructions for Hope Reserves.  
See part)

Indian Res Com<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria 21 May 1880

In reference to the case of Mr J. F. Allison who resides on the west side of Okanagan Lake (about opposite to the Mission), and certain Indians living near Mr Allison's House, and the request of the Surveyor General, in letter dated 20 May 1880 addressed to Lt Col. Powell Sup<sup>ts</sup> of Indian Affairs, for information as to whether a piece of land which Mr Allison wishes

Copy to Mr J. R. C. to Col. H. H. Thompson 20 Jan 1878 and Col. H. H. Thompson reply 26 Jan 1878 relating to land at Meadow Creek, Okanagan

to acquire and had surveyed in 1876 would interfere with Indian lands in that neighbourhood, the undersigned begs to state that, though some Indians have houses and cultivated patches beside Mr Allison's land, no reserve was assigned, and the Indians were located by the Reserve Com<sup>o</sup> had declined to assign one in that locality.

There is consequently no objection, on the part of the Reserve Commission, to the acquiring of land by Mr Allison in the neighbourhood of his house, but, as the Indians are probably still living there, and questions may arise in the future between them and Mr Allison, the undersigned thinks it may be well to mention that the case of Mr Allison is fully described in the general Report of the Commissioners acting for the Province, dated 1 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1878 and addressed to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Chief Com<sup>o</sup> of Lands & Works.

An extract from said Report is herewith sent for the information of the Sup<sup>t</sup> of Indian Affairs, but, inasmuch as there is no Indian Reserve at the place, it would seem that any questions between Mr Allison and the Indians would perhaps have to be determined by the Provincial Authorities.

Yr<sup>y</sup> & M<sup>y</sup> Servant  
C. M.

British Columbia

J. R. C. Victoria

20 May 1880

Sir,

It has been arranged that the survey party under your command shall survey, this season, so many of the Reserves as you can in the District at Head of Okanagan Lake, Kallumchee and those left unfinished by Cap. Bennett on Shuswap Lake; and for various reasons, it is thought desirable that, after arriving in the above interior district, you should survey, first, the reserve at the head of Okanagan Lake.

The Superintendent will doubtless instruct you to report to him as to the intention of Mr O'Keefe on a portion of the last named reserve, and, I may mention that the Indian Chief William wrote to me a letter complaining that white men had cut their timber at Swan and Duck Lakes, a matter which, also, might be reported on.

I enclose copy of a Report made by me, at the request of the Superintendent, on a letter of complaint <sup>written</sup> made by Mr John Greenlow, to Mr F. J. Vernon, as to his position at Swan Lake; also, letter of Comm<sup>o</sup> to Col. Houghton 20 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1878, and the latter's reply, 26 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1878, as to the amendment of the Indian line adjoining his land in Priest Valley, Okanagan.

Your attention may also be directed to the question whether the erection of the mill by Messrs O'Keefe & Greenlow, on Meadow Creek, will affect the supply of water which may be available for irrigating the Indian lands.

The Indians spoke of



making a dam on this Creek, and a few hints from you to them as to its construction might be useful.

If Mr O'Keefe interferes with your survey, he will be liable to the penalties of the Provincial Act for the protection of Surveyors. The Attorney General, I am informed by the Superintendent, now admits that Mr O'Keefe has no right to the Indian land he has occupied.

In your report to the Superintendent you might describe what Mr O'Keefe has done upon the said land since he was warned of his trespass by the Reserve Comm<sup>rs</sup>, so that the question of penalties and the appropriation, or disposition, of what Mr O'Keefe may regard as his improvements can be satisfactorily dealt with, and some account should be given of the crops he has taken from the land and benefited by.

It is unnecessary for me to refer to all matters in detail connected with the Okanagan Reserve, as you were over the ground with the Comm<sup>rs</sup>.

The delays which you state are caused, without corresponding benefit, by the running of lines for irrigating ditches, make it desirable that you should have discretion to run these in order to help the Indians, only, where it appears to be necessary, and, this discretion you will accordingly exercise.

You will make your way to the Okanagan District City by the wagon road, or Hope Nicola trail as you may find most desirable in reference to economy of time

and money, having previously arranged for transport of your effects either by pack train or wagon.

If, as suggested in your conversation, you get your pack train to Yale, you could go by either route, but, on the whole as it is said that the Hope Nicola will not be open for a month, and as then, there would be uncertainty as to the state of the bridges, you may find the wagon road the better route to adopt.

I send herewith a book endorsed "Indian Reserves British C<sup>o</sup>." containing sketches and descriptions, by yourself, from Horse Thompson to Osoyoos.

The Copy of Minutes of Decision you state you have, or can get from Cap. Semmelt.

Until you get your pack train to Yale, you can go on with the Katzie Reserves, doing, first, those portions temporarily reserved, so that the reductions and actual locations may be known, and you can then leave the remainder to be done later on, proceeding then to Okanagan. Please send back the Katzie instructions, and report as to what you have done there, before leaving for the Interior.

It will be convenient if, in going or returning from Okanagan, your Party could survey the Coldwater Reserves in Nicola Valley, the instructions for which you have in your possession; and any fresh phase of the question between Lelyaska and Mr Charles, near mouth of Cold Water, might be reported to the Superintendent.

If the water is high in the Coldwater, as is quite likely, you will be hardly be able to survey these reserves on your way to Okanagan, & moreover Paul's Basin up the Coldwater lies high, and you might find snow deep at this season, but these matters must be left to your discretion.

I do not think it necessary, as looked of, to give you instruction for Reserves at Hope or Gale, for it is evident that there is not even any chance of your being able to finish the job before your train will be at Gale, to which place you said you had ordered it.

Wishing you a successful season.

E. M. M. Esq. Ch.  
Ind. Res. Survey  
Victoria.

I am a . . .  
Sd. S. M. Sprout Com.  
— it

J. R. C.

Victoria 25 May 1880

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> I have not caused the Lower Fraser Minutes to be engrossed, as I wished to make a complete work by including Gale, or if not Gale, at least Katzie, from which letter Mr. M. M. has to send me a report.

If you wish the Minutes to be engrossed without including these places, I will cause it to be done, and you will oblige me by saying if you desire plans to be sent in with the Minutes.

The

reply to the latter part of your letter will require some consideration, and I will therefore again address you thereon.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
Ind. Res. Survey

I am a . . .  
Sd. M. Sprout Com.

J. R. C.

Victoria 26 May 1880

Sir,

In the "Instructions" for the Langley and Monroch Indian, the piece of land in Section 21 - Block V. about range 2 West is stated as 80 acres. It should be 40 acres.

Be good enough to alter the instructions accordingly. The place is behind Mr. Brown's opposite New Westminster.

Cap. Semmett  
Langley

I am a . . .  
Sd. M. Sprout Com.

J. R. C.

Victoria.

26 May 1880

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> with be good enough to explain to Cassim, if you have a sufficiently good interpreter, in such a manner as will cause him clearly to understand

(1) That it was necessary to make temporary reservations in the neighbourhood of Stave River, owing to the high water and mosquitoes, so as to prevent intrusions until the question was decided.



2. Section 2 T 15 was thus reserved, so that after I had seen the other Langley lands, I could form an opinion as to whether more than the south west quarter and the south half of the north west quarter of Section 2 T 15 was required for their reasonable uses.

I decided it was not.

3. The other piece of land, similarly dealt with, was a piece behind Whonock old reserve at the village, in Section 5 T 15. the piece about which you write.

The question was whether it would be better for the Indians to have a piece there, or the fractional north west quarter of Section 3 T 15 on right bank of Stave River.

I decided that the latter would be better for them, and more in accordance with their wishes, as affording land in some parts good for potatoes, and also having timber, and a good river frontage. Besides it may be mentioned that Mr. Stewart's claim lies behind Whonock village, and at the place on Stave River there would be less danger of clashing and trouble between the Indians and white.

The map in the hands of the Chief was given him at his request to show to intruders, and it was the map containing the temporary observations, necessarily.

Cosimur is so intelligent and so clearly

appeared to understand the course pursued that it was not thought that his having the map would lead to any misconception, while on the other hand, until the surveyors arrived (and it not then known when they would arrive) his possession of it might save squatters from intruding and being inconvenienced.

I am a son

Sr. J. H. Sprout Comr.

Cap. Danmiller

Mr. Res. Survey

Langley

P.S. Senelrose field note  
Memo. as to Whonock old reserve.  
his 4th 3

J. R. C.

Victoria 1 June 1880

Sir,

In case your party should be detained after arriving at Tule owing to high water upon the wagon road beyond Spuzzum, I send herewith to your address at Kaitzie some instructions as to survey of the Spuzzum Reserve, so that in case of need your party may not be obliged to be inactive.

I think it will be better to reserve the old reserves, indeed, it will, I presume, be necessary to do so under the system of surveys required by the Provincial Govt.

Yours truly, Senel

Sr. J. H. Sprout Comr.

E. M. Shaw Esq. C.E.

Indian Res. Survey

Kaitzie

Please return the instructions when leaving Spuzzum, whether or not the reserves are completed.

J. R. Cowan

Victoria June 1880

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 12th inst. complaining of Mr O'Keefe's continued intrusion upon the Indian lands at Okanagan.

Please to say to your friends that I have done everything in my power to urge the Government both at Victoria and Canada to settle this matter. I have not forgotten it, and the Surveyor Mr. Brohm is instructed this summer to go and include the piece of land in the survey. It will not be long before he is there.

I have been told that the Indians have gone upon the land in the same way that Mr O'Keefe has done. If they have done so, and occupy it peacefully, I cannot say they have done wrong, and I think the law will soon stretch out its hand, and Mr O'Keefe will have to remove. As I may not be here, if you write again, write to Dr Powell Indian Superintendent Victoria.

Chief Basil or William  
Cousin of Ph. Gourd  
Farmer. Okanagan

I am yours truly  
J. R. Cowan

J. R. C

Victoria 3 June 1880

Sir,

At Skwah. Lad a small Reserve near Mr Chapman's, Chelluwash. There is a dispute which is described in the annexed extract from a report of mine.

What is needed is that some one in authority should draw the lines on the ground showing what George should have and what William should have, as they don't seem able to settle it themselves as I hoped they would.

You might do this when there, in a quiet way. It might be well to ask them what they themselves had decided upon and offer to draw the lines and put in posts and if they arranged nothing then you might settle it for them.

There is a grave on Mr Chapman's land near the Skulkayn Reserve and if the Indians ask again about this you might note the position of the grave. It is not upon a Reserve, but is protected by the Indian Grave Ordinance.

It would be better if they willingly moved it, but if not willing they should enclose it and then no clash with Mr Chapman would occur.

P.S.

I am  
J. R. Cowan

Tell Chief Joe and his people at Kwaw. Kwaw. ab. pelt to settle among themselves that question about David's land which Joe mentioned when in Victoria but say that an Indian cannot have cultivable land in 2 different places. He must choose where his location is to be either in one or the other.

Cap. J. M. S.

Ind. Res. Survey - Chelluwash

Extract enclosed from  
Ann. Dec. 1879  
Red Book Page 166.



J. R. C.

Victoria 3 June 1880

Samuel Green Esq.  
Chilliwack

Dear Sir,

Adverting to your letter of the 12 Dec<sup>r</sup> last and Feb<sup>r</sup> 15 and 15 April last on the subject of an exchange of some of your land (which you considered might be added to Kwa<sup>o</sup>. Kwa<sup>o</sup>. a. p<sup>o</sup> Indian Reserve) for certain portions of Crown Lands which you mentioned in the above letters, and in reference also to my replies in which I said it would be necessary to consult Mr. Inlet C. M. G. on the matter. I find that it is a matter on which I, as Res. Com<sup>r</sup>, have to decide as to any recommendations which might be made to the Prov. Govt.

The Dom. Land Office will be concerned with the Lands remaining after all previously alienated lands, including such Indian Reserves as may be laid out, have been defined.

Such being the case I have given your proposal my best consideration and I have come to the conclusion that it cannot be made the subject of a recommendation from the Res. Com<sup>r</sup> to the Provincial Government, as extra lands for the people of the tribe in question have been found elsewhere.

I am Dear Sir

Your serv<sup>t</sup>  
L. J. McSproul Com<sup>r</sup>

Indian Reserve Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 4 June 1880

Sir,

With reference to the letter No 176111, 17 May 1880, from the Sup. Gen. to yourself which you have shown to me, in which it is stated that the Hon. Mr. Warkentin, when lately in Ottawa, excused the Provincial Govt. for their delay in conveying Indian Res. to the Dom. Govt. by stating that no maps or returns of survey had up to the time he left Victoria for Ottawa reached the Dept. of Lands & Works, I have to state that Mr. Warkentin's allegation is incorrect.

The maps & returns for the survey work of the two parties employed in 1878 were placed in his hands seven months before he left Victoria.

I enclose copy of my Official letter to Mr. Warkentin, dated 20 May 1879, enclosing the documents.

J. H. Powell Esq.  
Ind. - Sup<sup>t</sup> - Victoria

I am Sir &c  
L. J. McSproul Com<sup>r</sup>

Memoandum on a request in the Surveyor General's letter of 5<sup>th</sup> June 1880 to the Indian Superintendent with respect to a road which the municipality of Chilliwack wish the Provin<sup>l</sup> Govt. to lay out, and which will partly pass through the old Indian Reserve near Miller's Landing.

J.

It would under ordinary circumstances, be undesirable to permit a reduction of this Reserve as it is small, and should Mr. Early's Dyking Scheme be completed, will be seriously affected thereby, but as the Sumas settle reasonably require access to a portion of the bank not liable to be washed away by the Fraser, and as it seems the matter cannot be arranged between those desiring the roadway and Mr. Miller, the owner of the frontage adjoining the Reserve the undersigned would recommend that 33 feet along the west boundary of the Reserve be disposed of to meet the views of the Chilliwack Municipality.

So far as the undersigned recollects the place, it must however, be remarked, that this privilege will cut off an Indian fence and probably cleared or cultivated land, if not a house, and it therefore will be necessary for the Municipality to compensate the Indian for the land and for the improvements.

Capt. Jemmett might act for the Department in this matter, also authorized by the Superintendent. A further remark may be made. The undersigned thinks that the Indian principally concerned, works generally for Mr. Miller who opposes the road, and who, naturally, might instigate the Indian to refuse consent, but under the circumstances, looking to the public convenience, this possible opposition might be overruled on the Indian receiving compensation, and Capt. Jemmett in negotiating might bear in mind and mention to the Indian that, the Commissioner foreseeing the probability of an application for a road, after having witnessed the destructive

effects of the last years pests, has authorized a moderate extension of the Reserve in a north easterly direction up left Bank of the Fraser.

This addition of wild land however, cannot be considered as compensation to the Indian for a cleared and cultivated residential spot.

It is mentioned as an argument which Capt. Jemmett might use in acting for the Department with the Indian or Indians concerned.

The undersigned may remark that the resolution of the Council copied into the Surveyor General's letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1880 does not state whether the petitioners request to the Council for the proposed road was granted or refused by the Council, but it is presumed it was granted.

9<sup>th</sup> June 1880

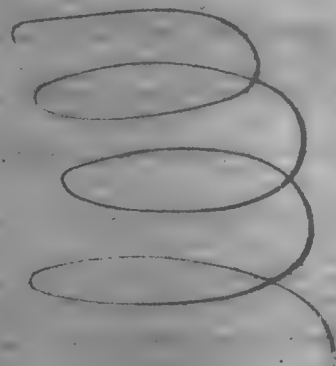
(Sig) H. M. Sproat  
Brown

Victoria  
June 9<sup>th</sup> 1880

To Capt Jemmett }  
Chilliwack }

" Along boundary lot 31 "

(Sig) Sproat





J. P. C.  
 Victoria 9<sup>th</sup> June 1880

Sir/  
 In reply to your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst,  
 I telegraphed to you to day, as you requested,  
 "Along boundary lot 31."

The measurements given you for the old  
 reserves are copied from old descriptions  
 which may be somewhat incorrect, and are  
 only for your general guidance, you should  
 always give the full size of the old reserves,  
 and can exercise your own judgment in  
 such cases. On land newly assigned,  
 the measurements, where given, are of course,  
 only an approximation, and you should  
 never cut off Indian cultivation by running  
 a stringent boundary. If the Indian improvements  
 are on a white man's land, and a question exists  
 between the Indian and the settler, it is a  
 matter which you should report, but generally  
 it is necessary and expected that a Surveyor  
 should exercise a fair discretion.

I am &c

Yours L. M. Sproat

Capt. J. M. Sproat  
 Indian Surveys  
 Chulawhach

Inokes Com<sup>r</sup>

Victoria 10 June 1880

Sir,

I did not reply, except by message,  
 to your letter of 31 ult. on the subject of details  
 of accounts, for the year ending 30 June 1879 -  
 as it was necessary for me to form some idea  
 of what your request involves in the way of  
 work.

It will cause the writing of over  
 100 letters, the preparation of well nigh 1000  
 vouchers, their transmission to different persons,  
 some of whom may be from home, residing  
 between such widely separated parts as Kamah  
 Inlet and Dsoyas - and their return to Victoria -  
 facts which will take up a considerable  
 time, and which makes me sorry there should  
 have been a misapprehension as to the wishes  
 of the Department.

I have in accordance,  
 with yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, given notice to Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
 Bleckinsop and Farnell that their services  
 will not be required after the 30 June, and  
 I note the same for myself -

I will send  
 you the finished work when that time comes,  
 or sooner as it may be completed, and  
 give you then, also, a list of the work  
 that will be unfinished -

I am &c  
 J. M. Powell Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Indian Supt<sup>r</sup>

Victoria

I am &c  
 J. M. Sproat

J.R.C.  
Victoria 12<sup>th</sup> June 1880

Sir / There are no agricultural lands in the neighbourhood of Yale of sufficient extent and of suitable quality for the numerous Indians in that locality, and it is therefore desirable that in addition to such crop land as may be available, the Indians should have the means of continuing to carry on the industry of cutting and preparing wood for steamboat fuel which many of them have hitherto pursued. They showed me on the spot what they wished to have; and after examining the country, I decided what should be done, and how it would be possible to gain the desired object without including any quantity of timber valuable for sawlogs, or for railway requirements.

It occurs to me, however, now, that it would be better if the Provincial Government agreed to give a lease or timber cutting privilege for these pieces of land, instead of having to convey as reserves long strips of useless soil, and with poor scattered timber, and I beg that you will ascertain their views on the subject.

I am &c  
(Sg) L. M. Sprout  
Commissioner  
J.W. Powell Esq.  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

J.R.C.  
Victoria  
24 June 1880

Sir / I enclose documents by as per annexed list relative to Indian Land Reservations in the Lower Fraser.

The interrupted work in consequence of my retirement from office will, for this district be contained in a separate book.

I am &c  
L. M. Sprout  
J.W. Powell Esq.  
Indian Superintendent  
Victoria

Minutes of Decisions in red book with notes for Departmental information

Minutes of Decisions with plans intended for the information of the Port Foot

Additional plans of Burrard Inlet reserves for ~~the~~ Provincial foot - to be annexed to minutes of Decisions therefor already in the possession of that foot.

The following Instructions to Surveyors in duplicate for portion of Lower Fraser

Burrard Inlet  
Tche-wass-an  
Mushkueam  
New Westminster

I was 30 some at back of Pgs 2 mentioned  
no minute of Decisions can be found



Loquillam  
Langley and Whonock (copy kept  
Jennett has original)

Matoqui  
Sumass River  
Mcormeen Slough  
Chilliwack (copy Jennett has original)  
blesm  
Hopsun  
Skwaw-tet  
Charnil  
sk-wah-look  
Also

1. Copy of instructions for  
"Stope Indians and  
"Munon Bar subgroup of  
Yale Indians

Note

The above will more than suffice  
for a survey party on the lower Fraser  
and I have no time to add to them  
They are in duplicate but one should  
be lost in the field.

(Sig) G. M. S.



Indian Reserve Commission

Victoria 26 June 1880

Sir,

With reference to your intimation that  
the services of myself, Mr Blenkinsop and  
Mr Karwell would have to cease on the 30<sup>th</sup> inst.  
I beg to state that notwithstanding our best  
endeavours, a considerable amount of  
necessary work, requiring probably a fortnight  
to complete, will be left unfinished at  
that date, and as this would be embarrassing  
to the public service, I await your instructions  
on the matter

Yours obedt Servt  
J. A. G. M. S. P. M. C. M.

Victoria 6 July 1880

Sir

I have yours of the 30 June 3 July also  
telegram 2 July.

The Skulkayn and G. K. L. a. K. M.  
oose Indians have to divide the new piece between  
these reserves between themselves and you need  
not run lines through the new piece.

You can always extend new boundaries a chain or  
two in your discretion so as not to cut off Indian  
cultivation or forcing to improve shape.

Possibly owing to instrumental variations the  
old survey descriptions may not agree with your  
bearing but always take the lines between the  
old posts when you can find the latter. Do not  
include the sand and shingle piece you mention.

I telegraph you to day. Skulkayn 56  
Please in future address D. P. M. C. M. —  
Cap Jennett - Chilliwack -

Indian Res. Comm<sup>rs</sup>

Victoria 12 July 1880

Sir,

I send herewith sundry documents as per annexed list for the information and use of the Department.

These have been somewhat hurriedly completed and I would gladly have subjected all of them to a careful revision had time permitted.

J. W. Powell Esq.  
H. A. Superintendent  
Victoria

Same Sir or  
S. P. & W. S. Pratt Com<sup>rs</sup>

In One Book

Commission Decision.

Spuzzum to Lytton.

Nicomen part, the rest being among Nicola Decision.

Cooks Ferry. Redwater in Nicola Valley.

Upper Similkameen.

A copy of the above, but without the notes,  
for the Pros. Inst.

Three Books No 1, 2 &amp; 3 containing "Interrupted Work"

to wit, 1. Lower Fraser, i.e. Gale, Katzie, Harrison  
River, Samiahamod.

2. At Lytton.

3. In Gale District - viz Oregon Jack & Cornucopia Indians  
& Bonaparte & Kereemus Indians

(Memorandum. As to the area of work done by  
the Commission in the Interior of the mainland,

Victoria 19 July 1880

Sir,

If I have to go into Cap Somerville's letter of 12<sup>th</sup> & day it will spoil my whole day's work at the stage I now am at, so that I suggest respectfully that you call him it will be looked into and sent to him at once by next mail. He has plenty of work at Chem which he can be going on with.

J. W. Powell Esq.

Yours obed<sup>tly</sup>  
S. P. & W. S. Pratt.

Indian Reserve Commission  
Victoria 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1880

Sir,

In adjusting the lands to which the Kinaw-Kewit Indians are entitled, I am desirous of knowing the boundaries of the Company's land at Fort Rupert, and shall be obliged to you for the loan of any sketch which you may have had prepared for the Company's purposes, or for any information which you may be pleased to communicate on the subject.

It appears, so far as I know, the Company's title consists of a preemption record, of which the following is a copy -

"Jan 4. 6<sup>th</sup> 1863. - No 471"

"Hoderick Thilayson for the Hudson"

"Bay to 100 acres of land at Fort Rupert"

"including the Hudson's Bay Co's fort, postage  
and garden"

I examined the ground in W. Hunt's company. He pointed the place where, as he stated



the north west corner post of the preemption claim was. This was near the shore about 20 chains west from the Fort. I would remark on this that the Admiralty Chart in 1860 shows, as the fact was, an Indian village immediately west from the Fort and east of the sand point.

This inclusion of an Indian Village within a preemption would not be in accordance with the law, and the preemption would fail.

The north east corner ~~post~~ was stated to be a little over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile eastward along the shore, from the north west corner thus the width back from the shore, in order to give one hundred acres would be from 10 to 30 chains at different places.

This shape would of course be subject to rectification on survey.

As you are aware, there have been for many years Indian Houses along the shore immediately east from the Fort, as well as west from it, and in fact, now there are houses in front of the Fort.

Mr Finlayson's preemption would, from one point of view, appear to mean that the 100 acres were to be as government survey requirements dictated, but that, at all times, the Fort and garden site, and I presume the Fort frontage were desired.

The question is what is the best arrangement now for the parties concerned.

Will it suit the Company if the Indians residing east and west of the Fort have a piece of land respectively

with frontages before the houses, leaving the whole Fort frontage clear.

I am Sir  
Wm Charles  
Chief Factor  
St Johns Bay  
Comr  
Jm Obedt  
Sgt. of M. Sproat  
Comr

Victoria 22 July 1880

Dear Sir.

I am sorry to learn from your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst that Mr. H. Michel has become indebted to you, but I hope he may soon get employment that will enable him to liquidate his debt.

I recommended him to the Govt, as I promised for further employment, but the recommendation was not adopted, and I so informed him as soon as I myself was in possession of the information.

My letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1879 by you ceased to be valid of course when he ceased to be in Govt. employment referring merely to what was to be done "in the meantime" until "otherwise ordered" from Ottawa.

I have informed Mr Powell that I do not think the Govt. is liable for the debt, under these circumstances.

I am Sir or  
Yr Obedt  
Wm Charles  
Chief Factor  
St Johns Bay  
Comr  
Jm Obedt  
Sgt. of M. Sproat  
Comr

Victoria 21 July 1880

Dear Michel,

I was very sorry to learn from your letter and from that of Mr McIntyre, that there is an unsettled account between him and you which you are unable to pay. What I promised to you was that I would recommend you to the Govt at Ottawa for employment, and this I did not fail to do as strongly as I could, but the Govt did not approve what was recommended, and I write to tell you as soon as I myself was in possession of the information, and at same time I said I could not send you any more money, as the Govt had not sent it to me, and I could not pay out of my own pocket.

I did everything for you that I possibly could as I have done for all the Indians but I had no more power than to make what I considered good recommendations to the Government.

I hope you will soon get good employment which you well deserve. I mentioned you to Mr Underdoubt as you know.

I do not intend going again as Commissioner, but my heart and best wishes are with the Indians, and during 4 years past I have tried to do justice, both to them and to their white neighbours.

I do not know what is being done, or is going to be done about the lands of the Indians, and cannot tell you if another Commissioner

is going, nor who he is to be.

With best wishes to your wife.

I am, yours truly,  
St. G. McSprouit

P.S.

I have several times mentioned the contract of the Chinaman at the land of Allec. of Stynes to Dr Powell, and I hope he will be dealt with.

Yours, S.

Indian Reserve Commission

Victoria 26 July 1880

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. and note contents, which seems satisfactory as regards the site of the Indian village site for the Kwak. Kwaklet tribe west of the Fort at Fort Rupert, but I would respectfully point out that the frontage proposed to be assigned there, for that subgroup of Indians, merely include the existing houses, without leaving room for any others.

The Kwak. a. Kah subgroup have 11 large Indian houses exclusive of shanties on the portion of ground east of the Fort frontage and the Govt would expect me to provide ground at least for the sites of the Indian houses both Kwak. Kwaklet and Kwak. a. Kah.

If then the piece of land east of the Fort frontage is not assigned, land must be found elsewhere for the Kwak. a. Kah Indians and where is this to be provided. The only other way



of adjustment would be to extend the Kwe-  
Kwe people's land westward along the shore  
including the so called R.C. Mission land  
where the old village was, and permit  
the Kwe-ah, Kaho to settle there.

But it

occurs to me it would not probably  
suit the Company so well as my  
existing proposal, for the old R.C. Mission  
land is a nice piece with good  
frontage and the present site of the  
Kwe-ah Kaho village east of the Fort frontage  
seems to be of little value except to the  
Indians, and they have been there so long  
it would trouble them much to move.

The whole piece in question  
east of the Fort frontage comprises only about  
an acre.

The Company's claim to that  
would appear to be superior to that of  
the Indians, still I would ask you to  
reconsider the matter in relation to what  
I have stated above.

Awaiting the favour

of your reply

Alex. Munro Esq  
J.B. Co

I am Sir & Co  
St. G. M. Sproul  
Commissioner

Indian Res. Commr

Victoria 27 July 1880

Sir,

I have received your letter of this date  
and have arranged matters as follows.

I assign no

land for the Indians immediately east of the Fort  
frontage nor on the R.C. Mission land (so called,  
but assign immediately west from the R.C. Mission  
land (that is outside your pre-emption) a portion  
of land for those Indians whose houses are now  
immediately east of the Fort frontage.

This I

imagine will meet the requirements of the case,  
but I hope the Co. will not make the Indians  
remove hurriedly for they have large houses.

It is possible that the Indians  
may not like the place west of the R.C. Mission  
land, in which event they will probably migrate  
to Alsea Bay which for some time they have been  
talking of.

I am Sir & Co

Alex. Munro Esq  
Ch. Factor. Hudsons Bay Co

St. G. M. Sproul Comr.

J.R.C.

Victoria 29 July 1880

Sir,

I beg to enclose, in connection with  
Reserve Commr work in New West District  
Mr. Hare's Report to me dated 16 May 1879  
on the probable effect of the "Sumas"  
Digging Act 1878 on the Indian Reserves  
at Chilliwack, Sumas and Indogwin.

I am Sir & Co

J. M. Powell Esq  
Indian Supdt Victoria

St. G. M. Sproul  
Comr.

J.R.C.

Victoria 28 July 80

Sir,

I beg specially to ask you to  
care for the interests of Mr. Chas. Nelson at Chilliwack.

who abandoned his presumption in order to  
facilitate a settlement with the Indian which  
otherwise would have cost great trouble to  
both Govts.

The case is described in the  
notes on Cheam reserved in the Red Book  
containing New West District Decisions.

Mr Nelson is to get, in lieu of area abandoned,  
160 acres free of charge, and he has selected  
the latter and is improving it. I think  
you might instruct Cap Bennett to survey it  
and send you a sketch. I specially write  
to you respecting Mr. Chas. Nelson, as he  
behaved so well in facilitating the work  
of the Govt, and as he cannot read or  
write, and may therefore require your  
help, should any questions as to his land  
arise.

J. W. Powell Esq  
Ind. Supr

Yours truly  
J. R. C. & Ind. Supr. Com.

J. R. C.

Victoria 31 July 1880

Sir, I beg to send herewith the documents  
connected with Coast reserves as per  
annexed list

J. W. Powell Esq  
Ind. Supr

Yours truly  
J. R. C. & Ind. Supr. Com.

Book of Decisions for Department. Sketches  
attached thereto

The same for Prov. Govt. the Decisions  
being unbound



13 Feb 1879

13 Feb 1879  
C. H. Carter

0



Next but opposite to the house to a tower all about by hand

Nice

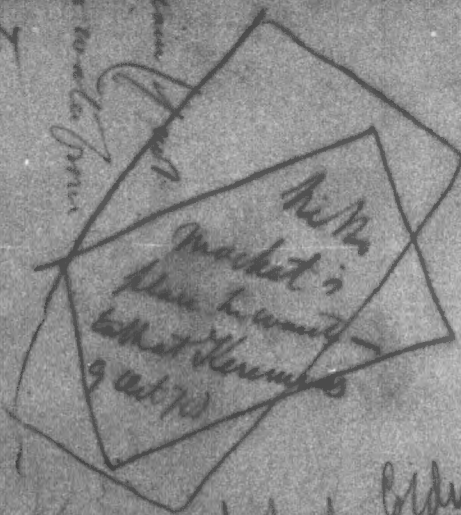
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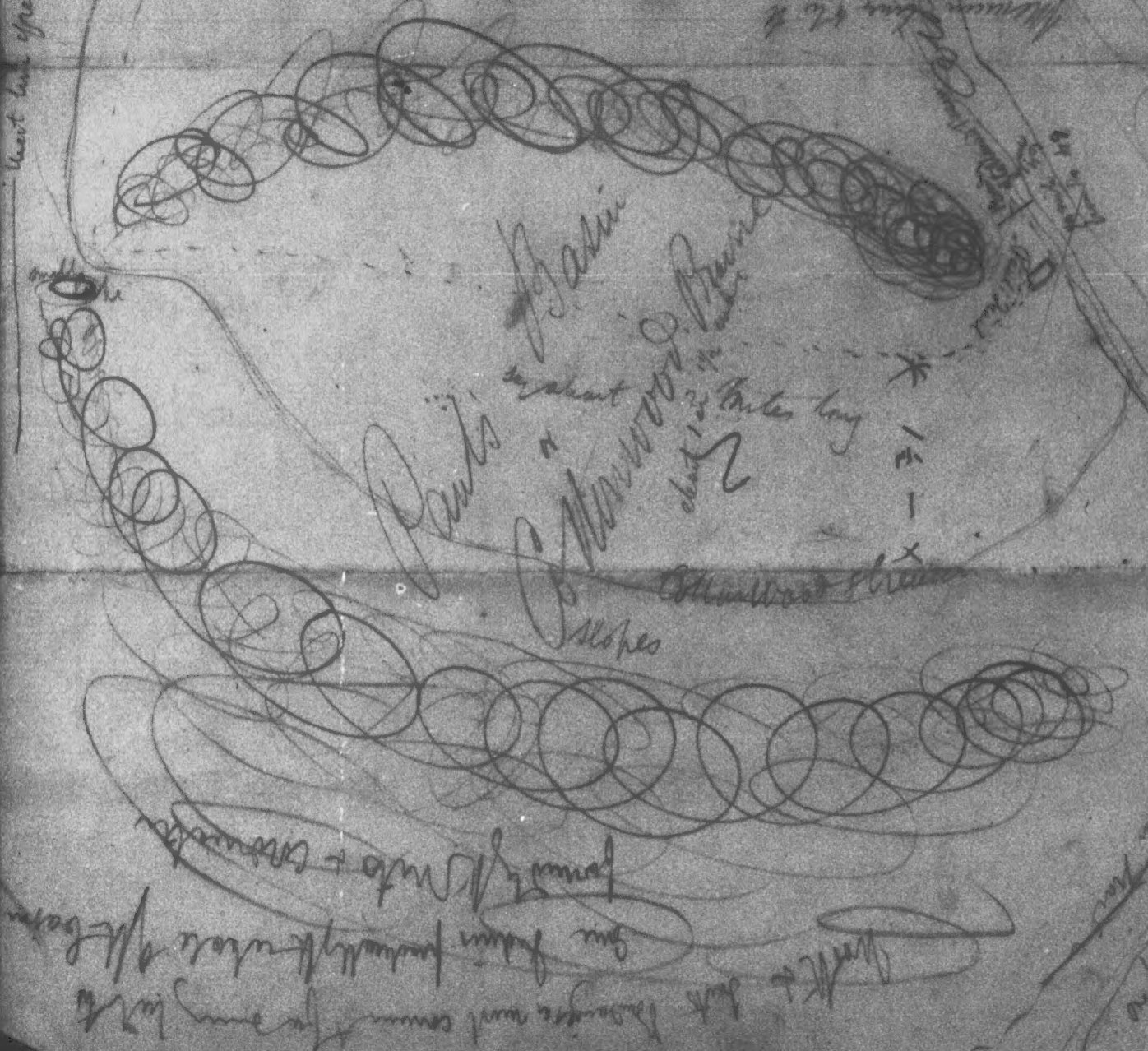
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British Columbia

Clinton B. J.

25 June 1888

Sir

I have the honor to call  
your attention to the fact  
that 2 Chilcoten Indians  
have been tried convicted  
and sentenced to death for  
at these Apris here for the  
murder of two Chinamen  
near Alkali Lake this  
Spring. Their arrest and

conviction are mainly due  
to the exertions of the Chief  
of the Chilcoten called  
Awaheir who sent out  
some 50 of his young men

McArthur

St. Col Powell & Co.



through whom to search  
for and arrest the murderers  
and furnish sufficient  
evidence of the facts -

These men were paid by  
the local Government for  
their trouble - but Anaheim  
refused to take any money  
as reward.

His answer was, 'I  
do not sell the blood of  
my children!'

It has suggested to me  
however, that, that warlike  
old chief would be pleased  
(if not already provided)  
with a Khelat or Dress

of some kind  
- some diplomatic or  
military uniform - or other  
distinctive dress to mark  
his recognition as the  
Chief of the Chilcats.

It being at the same  
time communicated to him  
that the intention of the  
present, is to give him  
a practical recognition of  
the assistance he rendered  
to the law - and an  
encouragement to him to  
enforce the preservation of  
Peace and Good Will  
in all transactions and



intercourse between the  
Whites and his people.

And to prevent the  
stealing of the settlers' cattle  
which was sure to lead  
to bloodshed.

If this mode should  
not be adopted then  
perhaps you would employ  
some other means of conveying  
the same idea to him.

I mentioned your name  
in an address I made the  
Chiefs & other Chilcotins before  
they left the Court, enforcing  
on them the necessity of obeying  
the law & living in peace.

I have the honor to be  
your servant

Genl. St. John

PS

I would add that  
it is of great importance  
that these 2 Chilcotins  
(Nate Lope & another)

should be executed at  
Clinton where they were  
tried and convicted -  
as the tribe will never  
believe they have been  
hanged.

They ask for  
Wyanduta (who was  
hanged at New Westm.  
to this day - as none  
of them saw him hanged)  
They think he is still in  
the Penitentiary and you  
can't convince them to the  
contrary.